



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

MRSA Makes a Stir in 94114

Doctors Stress Awareness of Drug-Resistant Staph

By Erin Archer

“Is it a spider bite?” Patients in San Francisco and around the country have been asking doctors that question more often lately.

That’s because what may seem like a bug bite or simple skin infection is in rare cases a drug-resistant staph infection called methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), and this infection requires immediate medical attention. In February, a Noe Valley merchant died within a week of noticing a cut infected with MRSA staph (*see story below*).

MRSA (often pronounced “mer-sah”) can be spread through skin contact with infected people or surfaces. It can infect anyone, but there is particular concern for those with weakened immune systems.

Earlier this year, researchers from the University of California, San Francisco, published the results of a study in the medical journal *Annals of Internal Medicine*. The study identified San Francisco as the potential center of an extremely

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Death of Ben Tom A Shock to Neighborhood

By Steve Steinberg

A simple cut on the arm, followed by a drug-resistant infection, led to the death in February of a popular 24th Street merchant.

Ken Tom, co-owner of Mail Boxes Etc. at 4104 24th Street, cut his elbow sometime in mid-February. According to his business partner John Lee, Tom didn’t pay much attention to the scratch and wasn’t even sure how he’d gotten it. Within a few days, however, the cut be-



Snowy Valley: Noe Valley residents finally were able to use their sleds and earmuffs, and snowballs flew through the air, when an unexpected March blizzard dropped two feet of snow on the city. Particularly hard hit was Church Produce at Church and 30th streets, shown here still shoveling out on April 1. For more shivering news and photos, see page 60. Photo by Carol Barskis

gan to show symptoms of a serious infection. Tom checked himself into the hospital on Feb. 20, less than a week after he’d noticed the cut. By then it was too late. Tom succumbed to a deadly staph infection in the early morning of Feb. 21, a few hours after he’d entered the hospital. He was only 44 years old.

Tom’s death was a shock to many people in the community who considered him their friend.

“People were walking down 24th Street crying after they heard of Tom’s passing,” said Carol Yenne, owner of Small Frys at 4066 24th Street. “He was always upbeat and friendly, never in a bad mood,” she added. “Everybody in the neighborhood

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

A Widget with a Conscience

Local Entrepreneur’s ‘Earbud Jack’ Gives Back

By Corrie M. Anders

Thirty-five-year-old Mike Simmons doesn’t look much different from many other young high-tech entrepreneurs. The founder of a startup company, based in Noe Valley, comes to the door for his interview dressed in black sneakers, jeans, and a V-neck sweater pulled over an open-collar shirt.

His corporate headquarters is unpretentious. It’s a small sunroom off the upstairs bedroom of his 29th Street Victorian-style home. The cramped workspace,

which also doubles as his wife’s office, is where Simmons conceived and designed Earbud Jack, a simple gadget for digital music listeners that keeps the long cords of earbud headphones from tangling.

But Simmons’ company, What If Widgets, breaks the mold of most businesses—especially those like his that are in their vulnerable first year of existence. He is giving 5 percent of each Earbud Jack sale to charity. The device costs \$9.

The first donations were recently delivered, fittingly enough, to two organizations that promote hearing health: the San Francisco-based Hearing and Speech

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



Lynn Hazen will introduce *Cinder Rabbit* at a book party April 19 at 3 p.m. at Cover to Cover Booksellers. Photo by Pamela Gerard

Lynn Hazen’s Career Is Hopping Along

Children’s Author Adds to Her Basket of Books

By Olivia Boler

This is a banner year for local children’s book author Lynn Hazen. The native San Franciscan will add two new books to her growing roster of work: a children’s book called *Cinder Rabbit* in April, published by Henry Holt; and a young adult novel in September from Tricycle Press called *Shifty*. Her previously published books are *Mermaid Mary Margaret* (Bloomsbury 2004) and *Buzz Bumble to the Rescue* (Bloomsbury 2005).

Unlike many authors, Hazen, 52, did not always want to be a writer. After growing up in San Bruno and Danville—

“My dad was a cop, and he decided not to have his kids raised in San Francisco, although my grandmother lived on Clipper Street”—Hazen attended the University of California, Davis, and received a degree in applied behavioral sciences. It’s a degree that has a little bit of everything—education, human development, and psychology—she says.

Later, Hazen received her master’s degree in education at San Francisco State University, and in 1983, she opened her own preschool, which she has been running ever since.

Between Davis and S.F. State, Hazen settled into an apartment on Chattanooga Street and worked at the Noe Valley Deli

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

Contents

Books to Read	47
Calendar	30
Class Ads	50
Cost of Living in Noe	21
Crime Beat	23
Florence’s Family Album	39
How Green Is My Valley	19
The Last Page	60
Letters	11
More Groups	56
Neighborhood Services	48
Rumors Behind the News	53
School Report	45
Short Takes	25
Store Trek	35

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE
www.noevalleyvoice.com



Art on High. Muralist Moira Caron poses on her scaffolding (and on the ground for a close-up) in February in front of artwork on the west wall of the parking lot at 3871 24th Street. The site is also where the Saturday farmer's market is held and the illustrations are of giant vegetables. A scroll-like ribbon will weave around the plants showing scenes from Noe Valley's past. After it's completion this summer, Caron will begin work on a companion mural on the east wall of the building that houses Haystack Pizza.

Photos by Beverly Tharp

Local Roots Run Deep



A resident of Noe Valley for 15 years, Jane Ivory is intimately familiar with the rich abundance of culture that makes this neighborhood such a fertile community.

Whether browsing at the Animal Company, lunching at Le Zinc, or window shopping among the many boutiques, Jane's local knowledge comes from the experience of living among the treasures that give this neighborhood its unique atmosphere.

So whether you want to plant your roots or transfer to another ground, let Jane point you to the best spot in this garden.



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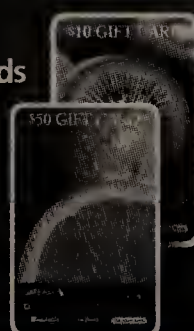
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Victorian Holiday

Editor:

Some people go to Paris. I came from Marin to Noe Valley for four days this spring. Hidden Cottage Bed and Breakfast couldn't have been more delightful. The inn had a bouquet of fragrant roses welcoming me in the sitting room.

Exploring the neighborhood with my sketchbook, I felt as though I was in a friendly place with many babies and dogs.

The quality and diversity of the restaurants was beyond my expectations! My city friends would come over for a drink,

and then we'd walk to one of the nearby restaurants.

In order to avoid parking, I came in on the ferry, hopped on the J-Church streetcar, and walked right into the heart of Noe Valley.

It was fun talking with friendly people as I sketched and moved the architecture around a bit in order to draw all three styles of Victorian architecture.

Thanks, Noe! I'll be back!

Audrey Hulburd
Greenbrae, Calif.

Thank you, Audrey. We loved the drawings.
—Editor

LETTERS to the EDITOR

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. Write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or email editor@noevalleyvoice.com.

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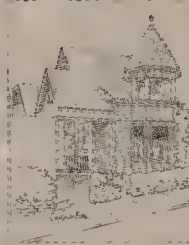
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Aggressive Staph Hits Close to Home

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

drug-resistant strain of MRSA. The highest concentration of cases was in zip code 94114, and male-to-male sex appeared to be a risk factor.

In announcing the news, a Jan. 14 headline in the *San Francisco Chronicle* declared the "S.F. gay community an epicenter for [a] new strain of virulent staph," setting off alarms around the city.

After several other publications ran stories on the subject, members of the Stop AIDS Project organized a forum to talk about MRSA and to combat what they saw as the homophobic "spin" to the news coverage. The Jan. 30 forum, held at the LGBT Center on Market Street, included researchers, physicians, and community activists.

Dr. Ken Katz, of the sexually transmitted diseases division of the San Francisco Department of Public Health, told the audience that MRSA infection was not new. "We have known about this disease for years," he said. "MRSA is not a gay disease. MRSA is not a disease of the Castro or of any neighborhood. MRSA can affect all San Franciscans. This is a conversation we've been wanting to have for a long time."

Rick Loftus, a physician at Davies Medical Center and an expert in gay men's health, apologized for arriving at the forum late. Ironically, he had been diagnosing a case of MRSA pneumonia. He said MRSA was a problem for concern, especially for gay men. However, he noted, "We're not the source of the MRSA problem, but its inadvertent victims.... People with HIV get more skin infections, period. Our community was on low ground. The tsunami came through, and we got drowned."

The experts all agreed that antibiotic-resistant infections are on the rise across the nation. Previously limited to hospitals, MRSA has recently been found at schools, on sports teams, in prisons, and at gyms. Any shared and frequently touched surface can be a means of transmission, and MRSA may sometimes be transmitted during sex.

Dr. Erica Pan, of the Health Department's communicable disease division, suggested that people put some sort of barrier between their skin and the surfaces they have to touch. "Put a towel down at the gym," she said, and make sure that cuts or wounds are covered before engaging in contact sports, martial arts, or sex, "like making sure someone wears a condom."

Advice from Noe Valley Doctors

The UCSF study estimated that in the zip code 94114, which includes the Castro and Noe Valley, one person in 588 was likely to have an infection caused by a particularly aggressive bug within the MRSA strain, one that is resistant to most common antibiotics. (The city as a whole was estimated to have one case for every

3,846 people.)

So should residents in Noe Valley be more alarmed than those in other San Francisco neighborhoods?

"I think 'alarm' is not the right word. I think people should be 'aware'" of the potential for staph infections which can arise from seemingly minor cuts or abrasions, said Dr. Sophia Mirviss, a member of the Pacific Family Practice Medical Group on Church Street.

People may tend to dismiss what looks like a bug bite, for example. "But if it gets a lot bigger and quicker in 24 hours, they should be concerned that it is a staph infection," said Mirviss, who has practiced in Noe Valley for 16 years.

Mirviss said she has not encountered the more dangerous variant in her practice, but has successfully treated a number of other MRSA cases in the past three to four years.

"You have to treat it aggressively, and you have to treat it early," she said.

Like Mirviss, Dr. Jade Schechter of the Noe Valley Clinic on 23rd Street doesn't want to fan people's fears. But she understands their concerns. "No one wants to be the 'epicenter' of anything," she said.

In late February, however, she had yet to treat a single patient with MRSA in Noe Valley. "I haven't seen a ton of it here," she said, "but we've only been here for four months. We have four clinics, and I saw more MRSA when I was working at our clinic in the Financial District. Here, my patient population is pretty healthy. In general, there's an upswing of MRSA, but at this site I don't think I've seen a case yet."

Her best advice to neighborhood residents is to use common sense. "Good general hygiene precautions are still the best prevention," she said.

Schechter notes that MRSA is just one of many organisms that can cause infection. "All bacteria have resistance, and MRSA is just one of them. Still, it's a good reminder: Don't overuse antibiotics. Wash your hands well. Don't share things like towels, and keep wounds clean and covered. Parents should be aware of their kids' wounds. Kids are more susceptible to complications because their immune systems are not as developed. Make sure that your child's wounds are healing appropriately, that they don't have a fever, and that they're acting like themselves."

Dr. Schechter recommends that a patient get medical advice if a cut becomes redder or more swollen, or there is an area of pus. An infected wound may be warm to the touch or more painful than expected. "If a person has a wound with a fever or they're systemically ill," she adds, "they should definitely seek medical attention if they haven't already."

"Keep yourself healthy in all ways," Dr. Schechter advises. "Eat well and get good sleep. This will help your immune system better fight any kind of infection."

Erin Archer is a registered nurse who lives and works in San Francisco. For more information about MRSA, go to the San Francisco Department of Public Health's website at www.mrsasf.org.



Ben Tom was a sincere friend and the "spark" of many of his customers' days. He co-owned the 24th Street branch of Mail Boxes Etc. for 17 years.

Photo courtesy John Lee

Sudden Loss of Merchant Ben Tom

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

looked forward to seeing him."

Sara Witt, a 20th Street resident who has had a mailbox at Mail Boxes Etc. for the past eight years, described him as a "kind, helpful, and genuine" individual. She said she saw him almost every day of those eight years when she would go to the package store to pick up her mail. "He was part of my life, the spark of my day," Witt said. She had just loaned him some tourist books on Italy, as he and his girlfriend were planning a trip there. "Not a day goes by that I don't miss him," Witt added.

Tom, who had worked in banking before opening the Mail Boxes Etc. branch, was on particularly good terms with the staff of Noe Valley's Bank of America at 24th and Castro streets.

"He was like a staff member," said Nancy Mendoza, BofA's assistant manager. "We went to each other's homes, and he always attended our parties," she said, adding, "We lost a true sincere friend; we miss him dearly."

Tom, a resident of Twin Peaks, was a San Francisco native who lived in the city his entire life. He attended Sacred Heart High School and San Francisco State University, where he majored in finance. Lee, who had known him since elementary school, said the two decided to go into business 17 years ago and open their 24th Street franchise. Lee, who said he was still in shock over his partner's death, said the business would continue. "I might have to hire additional help now that Ken is gone," he said.

Memorial contributions in Ken Tom's memory can be made to the Youth Educational Fund of the Buddha's Universal Church of San Francisco, 720 Washington Street, San Francisco, CA 94108. ■

How to Avoid MRSA Infection

The staph infection that claimed the life of Mail Boxes Etc. owner Ken Tom is formally known as MRSA, or methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*. It is a highly communicable disease that has proven itself resistant to most antibiotics. There is some evidence, as reported by the San Francisco Department of Public Health, that gay men are at higher risk of getting MRSA. But anyone can become infected—Ken Tom was not gay.

Factors that facilitate MRSA according to the Health Department are:

- Frequent skin-to-skin contact
- Compromised skin (i.e., cuts or abrasions)
- Contaminated items and surfaces
- Crowding
- Lack of cleanliness

Good hygiene can prevent the spread of staph infections. The San Francisco Department of Public Health recommends the following measures to combat MRSA:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water. If soap is not available, use hand sanitizer instead.
- Keep wounds covered with clean, dry bandages.
- Do not share personal items such as towels, clothes, or anything else that makes contact with skin.
- Clean and disinfect items that are shared (such as athletic/workout equipment) before and after every use with disinfectant or detergent. A list of products approved by the Environmental Protection Agency that are effective against MRSA is available from the Department of Public Health's website. These products should be used only as directed.
- Use lotion to keep skin moist; damaged skin can provide an opening for infection.

For more information, visit the Communicable Disease Control and Prevention website of the San Francisco Department of Public Health: www.sfdcdp.org.

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(Trust Building Tip #58)

**Offer to share your ice cream, but don't
wipe it across your brother's face.**

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What If Widgets Founder Says Meet Earbud Jack

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Center of Northern California and the American Hearing Research Foundation, located in Chicago.

Because the private company's sales are proprietary information, Simmons would not disclose how much he donated to the groups. He pointed out, however, that his earbud holder "sold like crazy" at the Macworld Expo in January at the Moscone Center and that he expects to send even larger donations in the future as sales of the product grow.

Simmons is the only employee of his company, and Earbud Jack is its only product so far. The blue three-inch plastic widget resembles a stick man with splayed arms and legs. It's fairly easy to use. Merely throw the earbuds over the figure's shoulders, draw the cords between his legs, loop the remainder several times around his head and feet, then tuck the earjack plug into one of his hands.

The idea was born out of Simmons' exasperation at finding the cords snarled or in knots when he was ready to listen to music on his MP3 player. His friends and colleagues also complained about the same kinky problem.

"Everyone I knew who had an iPod would pull it out of their pocket, and inevitably would have to spend a couple of minutes untangling the headphones," he says. "In this day and age with the Internet, people want things instantaneously, so that 30 seconds or a minute or however long it might take to unfurl your headphones can be frustrating."

Of course, Simmons thinks he's got a hit on his hands. Market analysts estimate music lovers own 80 million MP3 players, he says, with the ubiquitous iPod and iPhone accounting for 53 million of the total.

"So each one of those is a potential customer," he says. "I certainly don't believe every one of those people is going to buy Earbud Jack, but I think it creates a large market opportunity."

What If Widgets does not have a CEO, chairman of the board, or other formal executive title. Simmons calls himself the firm's Chief Tinkerer. The whimsical description personifies his talents for helping to design or develop new electronic products for companies as varied as Apple, Hewlett-Packard, Motorola, and SanDisk.

A business design degree from Stanford University and an MBA from MIT helped hone his entrepreneurial side. But he's not a total geek. He loves cooking, swing dancing, running, and once, in his

Stanford days, was on a team that set a world record for leap-frogging 996.2 miles to help raise money for a tutoring center in East Palo Alto.

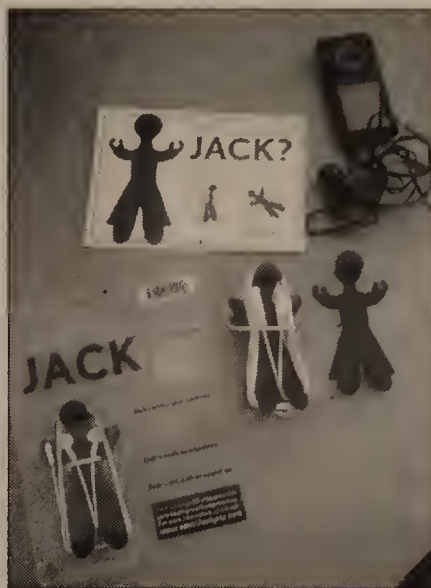
Until last year, Simmons lived in a loft in the trendy South of Market district with his wife Diana, a business development manager with Clif Bar, the organic energy bar company. The birth of son Logan in May last year prompted the couple to rethink their living arrangement and move to Noe Valley.

"A loft is not necessarily the ideal place for having a baby," says Simmons. "We decided we needed to move to a little more family-friendly environment."

Simmons started sketching his Earbud Jack design in late 2006 and continued into early 2007. By the summer, Simmons had put his Internet consulting business "on a back burner" and turned full-time toward the launch of what he calls his "little blue man."

He initially toyed with naming the product "Ear Buddy." But Earbud Jack was an even better wordplay: jack is the location where headphones plug in and, as a person's name, gives the product a personality.

Donating a portion of his revenue was a key feature of his business plan from the start. Simmons says he followed the paradigm of "really good" companies such as Newman's Own, Patagonia clothing, and



The Earbud Jack, a holder for your MP3 player cords, sells for \$9, but 5 percent always goes to charity, says its inventor.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

Clif Bar. "They believe in their employees and have strong convictions" about helping good causes.

His vision was not a marketing gimmick or ploy to boost sales. "If it helps create sales, that's great, but that's not the purpose," he says. "In addition to creating fun products, I wanted to create a company that gave back to the community."

The 5-percent donation pledge is

printed directly on the packaging of each Earbud Jack, which is sold on Amazon.com and MacFriends.com, and at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art museum store. The pledge is meant to hold the company publicly accountable.

"I think a lot of companies have good intentions about giving back. But when it comes to the end of a quarter, there's a lot of leeway they have as far as determining 'Well okay, things were a little tighter this quarter, and so we're going to cut back on what we're giving,'" Simmons says. "I wanted to build [the donation] into each product so that I didn't allow myself that hedge."

The donations struck a chord with the San Francisco beneficiary. "By contributing a portion of their profits, What If Widgets helps our organization promote hearing health and assist people of all ages with hearing loss to get hearing aids, education, and counseling," says Leslie Castellanos, an executive with the hearing and speech center. The Chicago recipient expresses similar sentiments.

Simmons hasn't designed any other widgets for his new company. "As soon as sales grow to a point where I can fund more research and development, then I'll develop future projects."

Still, don't be surprised to soon see a variation of Earbud Jack. It'll be called Earbud Jill.



Widget designer Mike Simmons asks: what if you had a headphones holder that was a simple, lightweight figure called Earbud Jack? Wouldn't that be better than a mass of tangled cord?

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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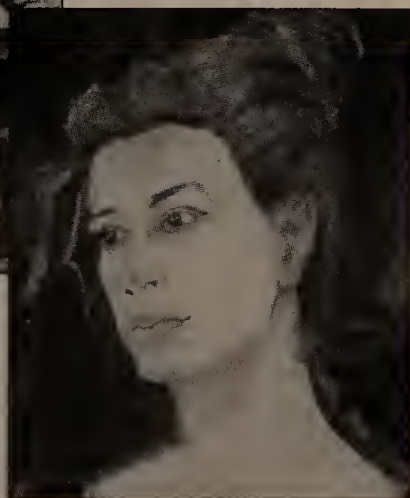
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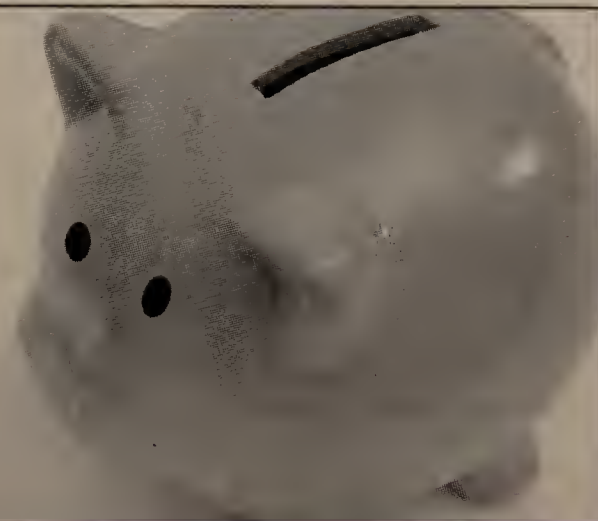
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{Trust Building Tip #64}
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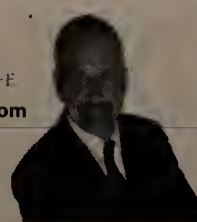
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Lynn Hazen's Stories Told with Heart and Humor

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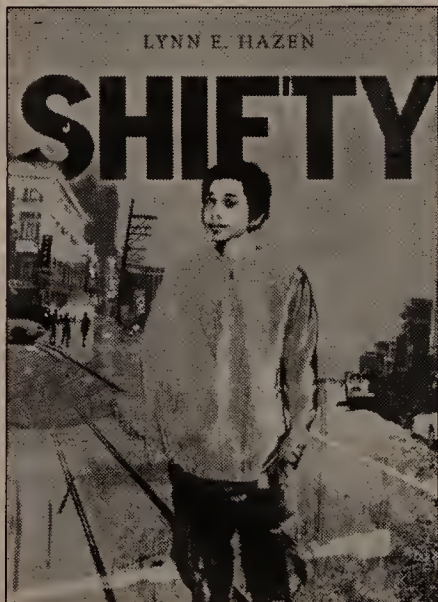
on 24th Street. She also waitressed at Panos' (now Pomodoro) and spent three years teaching in Japan. She recalls moving around a lot in the late 1970s and '80s because Noe Valley rents were so cheap.

"I'd jump around from flat to flat, travel, and come back," she says. "I watch my sons now trying to find places to rent. It's not the same."

The married mother of two boys—both of whom are post-college age—Hazen says she "had a thing for children's books and picture books when she was in high school," and also while taking writing classes. But it wasn't until she started reading a lot of children's books to her own children and to her students that she felt inspired to tap out her own children's stories.

She began sending out queries to publishing houses in the 1990s. Although her work kept getting rejected, the rejections became more encouraging. So she decided to work on her craft and entered a long-distance MFA creative-writing program at Vermont College. It allowed her to work from home while communicating long-distance with a professor/mentor.

Hazen's "excellent mentor" was Allison McGhee, author of 13 books, including *Someday* and *A Very Brave Witch*. In 2003, Hazen began writing *Shifty*, which became her thesis and won her a Houghton Mifflin scholarship that helped pay for the MFA program.



Shifty, due out in September, revolves around a teen living in foster care in San Francisco.

Shifty is about a 15-year-old boy in San Francisco foster care, and it addresses issues of homelessness, but Hazen is quick to point out that the book also "deals with hope and the human spirit."

"I was hesitant to write in the voice of a boy and a young adult," Hazen admits. "But the image that came to me was of this character in the first scene driving a



Noe Valley author Lynn Hazen hopes *Cinder Rabbit* will soon join *Mary Margaret Mermaid* and *Buzz Bumble to the Rescue* on the shelves at the Noe Valley Library. Photo by Pamela Gerard

car, and I realized, this isn't a middle-grade or picture book."

Hazen says she feels "more at ease in the world of younger children. But in the MFA program, I was practicing my craft, trying new things, and exploring."

The experimentation paid off, because Tricycle Press, an imprint of Berkeley's Ten Speed Press, will publish the book this fall.

Before *Shifty*, however, came *Cinder Rabbit*, which will be distributed this month, by Henry Holt and Company. This "young chapter" book (appropriate for ages 6 to 9) follows the trials and tribulations of Zoe, a young rabbit who attends Grand Rabbits School. Zoe has been chosen to star in her school play, "Cinder Rabbit," and must lead her classmates in the Bunny Hop dance. Unfortunately, Zoe has lost her ability to hop. Will she be able to get it back in time for opening night?

Hazen will be glad to tell you the answer at her book launch party at Cover to Cover Booksellers on Saturday, April 19. "I'll be reading and signing books, and we'll maybe do the Bunny Hop," Hazen says with a laugh. Elyse Pastel, the book's illustrator, might also come up from Los Angeles for the event.

In the meantime, Hazen is working on several new projects. She has another children's book about "a snail who's

looking for a job in all the wrong places," coming out with Henry Holt in 2009, and she's partway through a novel for kids in middle grades. She's also thinking about taking on another young adult novel.

Hazen says she draws inspiration for her books not only from her years raising and teaching children but from living in "Baja Noe Valley." ("My front yard is in the Mission and my back yard is in Noe Valley," she jokes.)

"All the kids and families, and their interactions—I'm always observing them when I go on walks with my friends."

Such inspiration is evident in her first two books. *Mary Margaret Mermaid* is a

middle-grade book about a girl who goes on a seniors' cruise to the Greek islands with her widowed grandmother. Hazen describes it as having "its tender moments. It's funny and full of heart."

Buzz Bumble to the Rescue is a picture book about sibling rivalry.

"There's a new baby in a large extended hee family," Hazen says. "As a preschool teacher, I've seen a lot of older siblings' worlds changed by the arrival of a new baby, so this translates well for parents dealing with that."

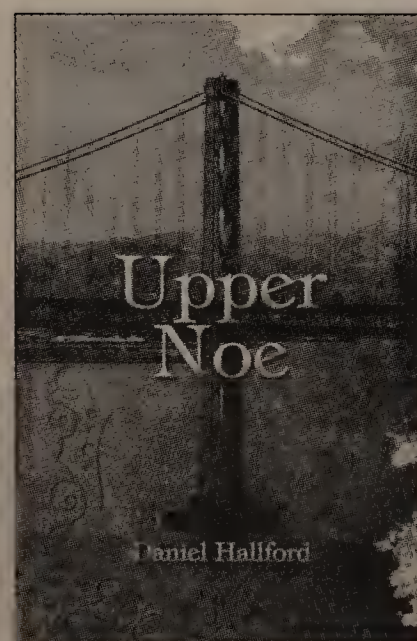
Hazen remembers taking her own children to the Acme Metal Spinning Works Café on 24th Street in the 1970s [now Casa Mexicana]. She recalls with fondness the Acme's lentil soup and molasses soda bread. "If anyone has the recipes, I would be so happy!" she says. "I've been around long enough that I remember when the stores all had different names."

These days, she often meets with her writing group at Fresca restaurant on 24th Street. "I love their mojitos—is that bad for a children's author to admit?!"

In between sips, they trade secrets on writing for children. "One is to write the story that only you can tell, in a voice and style uniquely your own," says Hazen. "Another is to be brave.... Of course, never talk down to kids, whatever the age range. Read lots of great books, and always keep them to perfect your craft."

A good place for reading might be the Noe Valley Library, one of Hazen's favorite spots. She says that seeing her books sitting on the shelves alongside other children's books makes her "a teensy bit choked up, because when I was a child, most of the books I read were from the public library—and the same for my own kids as they were growing up. So, knowing that my books are accessible to children all over through their local libraries is amazingly rewarding."

To find out more about Lynn Hazen or her books, visit www.cinderrabbit.com or www.lynnhazen.com. The *Cinder Rabbit* reading on April 19 starts at 3 p.m. at Cover to Cover, 1307 Castro Street.



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{Trust Building Tip #92}

**Borrowed clothes should never be
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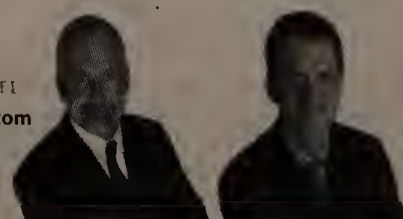
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HOW GREEN is my VALLEY

The Birds and the Bees

By Hilary Gordon

Now that spring is here in full force, the trees and shrubs are blooming to the music of the birds and the buzzing of the bees. While we are hopping on the bus or walking to the corner store, the wild creatures in our valley are busy attending to their breeding season. Even in our congested urban environment, the birds still nest, hatch out their young, and feed them until they are old enough to fly. And during this demanding time, they look to our gardens and parks for their nests, food, and water. They also reward us with their brightest plumage and sweetest songs.

To Welcome a Hummingbird

Flashing through the air like jewels, hummingbirds are among the most magical of our garden residents. They speed from blossom to blossom, reaching their beaks deep down into the flowers for the hidden nectar that is their only food. The blooms they like best are long, hanging, or trumpet-shaped, like fuchsias. Red is apparently their favorite color—I have often seen a curious hummingbird hanging in the air, puzzled, when I've worn my red cap in the garden.

Hummingbirds are very territorial, guarding their plants from rival hummingbirds. If they see an intruder, they soar high up into the air, and letting out a single enraged peep, dive-bomb the offending bird. Then you can watch the two hummingbirds quarrel until one escorts the other out of their "yard."

Hummingbirds build their nests—which are tiny, just big enough for a single egg—out of fine material such as hair and spiderweb. Because the birds are so small, and so active, they depend on constant sources of nectar for the huge energy drain of egg-laying. That's where we come in, because hummingbirds must rely on the plants growing in our gardens, decks, and planters for their food supply.

To attract a hummingbird, plant a nectar plant. Some good choices include the strawberry tree (there were several planted on 24th Street last year), the butterfly bush, fuchsia (which blooms



Photo by Beverly Thorp

Fabulous Noe Valley Plant of the Month: California Strawberry

Birds and bees—but especially humans—love the California Strawberry tree, Latin name *Arbutus unedo*. The specimen pictured above is among several planted on 24th Street (near Noe) last year as part of a street greening project. In March, its branches were hanging with clusters of pink bell-shaped flowers, which will soon be followed by green fruit that turns red as it ripens. Hummingbirds and bees were hovering close-by to sip the flower nectar. The Strawberry is a well-behaved street tree. It is native to California, drought-tolerant once established, and interesting in every season. What a fabulous plant! —Hilary Gordon

all year long in our climate), and sages of many varieties. California lilac, blooming now, is another good nectar plant, and is a drought-tolerant native.

Finches Forage for Seeds

Each morning, a lively crowd of yellow, purple, red, olive-green, and brown birds chatter and argue on the birdfeeder outside my kitchen window. These little songbirds, in the finch family, include two kinds of goldfinches, purple and house finches, and English sparrows. They all have stout beaks for cracking seeds, and if you provide them with Niger thistle seed—also known by the brand name Nyjer—they will trill your praises.

Seed mixes that include larger seeds, like sunflower seed, tend to attract jays, who intimidate the smaller birds. By hanging just the slender thistle seeds in a fine mesh bag (known as a finch sock), you can feed the little birds without subjecting them to bullying. (Finch socks are available at garden centers and at pet stores, such as the Animal

Company on 24th Street.)

Among your bird visitors you might also see ground-feeding birds—such as white- and gold-crowned sparrows or brown towhees—picking at the fallen seeds under the feeder. These birds will forage in the seeds, fruits, and berries of the plants in your garden. Goldfinches seem to particularly love the seeds of rosemary and verbena.

One part of the finches' life cycle you don't want to miss is when the baby birds just out of the nest make their first flights to the birdfeeder. They don't yet have their adult feathers, so they look like a bunch of punk teenagers, all awkwardness and insolence. They arrive in gangs, and often plunge awkwardly in their attempts to perch on the feeder. They knock each other down and jockey for position. It may take several tries for them to settle down into a calmer rhythm.

Bees Like Lilac

Like the birds, bees depend on our yards, parks, and street trees for their

sustenance. Noe Valley is blessed with several beekeepers, who tend hives in their back yards. In addition to the European honeybees in these hives, we have native Californian bumblebees, which are solitary creatures living in burrows in the soil. Bees provide us with honey and pollinate our food plants, and they add a lovely buzzing, bumbling presence on a warm day in the garden. In our mild climate, bees are active on sunny days year-round, but now they are extra busy, building up the numbers in their hives for the summer ahead.

To befriend the bees, nurture some of their favorite plants. Blooming now are rosemary, lavender, California lilac, and California poppy. Suzi Palladino, a beekeeper at Garden for the Environment, has observed that the European honeybees prefer European plants like lavender and rosemary while the native bumblebees frequent native plants like California lilac.

Gardening for Wildlife

Unfortunately, my favorite book about local gardening to support wildlife is now out of print. But Nancy Bauer's *The Habitat Garden Book: Wildlife Landscaping for the San Francisco Bay Area* is still available in some branches of the public library. If you can find it, you are in for a treat. The author describes the birds, bees, and butterflies of the Bay Area, and their food plants, as well as many useful tips for attracting and supporting wildlife in the garden. Some of her most important suggestions include growing diverse plants with year-round fruit and flowers, providing a birdbath or other source of clean water, and avoiding pesticides, which may get into the food chain.

In one of my favorite paragraphs she writes, "Habitat gardens are for people, too. Reconnecting with nature, healing a small piece of the earth, and being surprised by the unexpected are just a few of the rewards."

Check out these websites for more on the birds and bees: www.goldengateaudubon.org or www.sfbee.org.

Hilary Gordon is a Noe Valley resident who has spent two dozen years in the gardening field. She works and teaches organic gardening at the nonprofit Garden for the Environment at Seventh Avenue and Lawton. Meet her there on any open garden day: Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; or Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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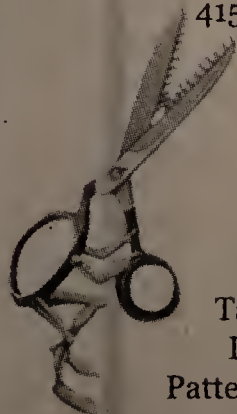
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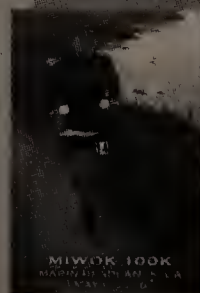
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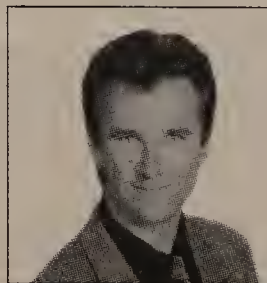
If they don't, they may very soon. And the implications could be enormous. If you're in your 50's or beyond, chances are your real estate needs are changing. You may be looking to downsize, thinking of placing your house in a trust, wondering how your real estate figures into your overall retirement planning, or dealing with whether an aging parent can stay at home. You might also be interested to learn about special real estate tax advantages the law makes available to those ages 55 and up.

Whatever your concern, I can help. I'm a certified Seniors Real Estate Specialist and Realtor with Zephyr Real Estate. I'm also a Noe Valley resident who has been involved in the Bay Area's fiduciary community as a trusted resource for over a decade.

Please feel free to give me a call to discuss any questions you might have about any of the above topics, or about real estate in San Francisco more generally. If I can't help you directly, I'll be able to connect you with the appropriate resource to address your concern. There's no more important time to begin planning for the future than NOW!



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The Cost of Living in Noe

February's Eager Beavers

By Corrie M. Anders

Noe Valley's real estate market began to emerge from the winter doldrums in February as buyers purchased eight residential properties, often paying more than the asking price to live in one of the city's most desirable neighborhoods.

The single-family home tally was just one more than in January 2008 and matched the total that had changed hands a year earlier, according to Zephyr Real Estate, which provides monthly sales data, to the *Voice*. Though their numbers were few, February's crew showed a fervor that was reminiscent of past hot markets.

Eager buyers bid up homes an average 7 percent higher than the original price—which pushed the typical cost of a Noe

Valley property over the \$1.5 million mark. And it took a relatively quick five weeks, from the time a home went on the market, to close the deal.

Randall Kostick, Zephyr's general sales manager, said real estate activity traditionally tends to slow down during the winter holiday season and starts to pick up in February. "It just took a little longer [this year]," he said, noting that spring activity at open houses and new listings promised robust sales in March.

The February data showed that a large house with four bedrooms, 4½ baths, and three-car parking was the most expensive single-family home sold in February. Buyers paid \$2,450,000—4 percent more than the asking price—for the 3,890-square-foot property, located in the first block of Valley Street near Dolores Street.

Buyers paid \$1.2 million for the costliest condominium, a two-bedroom, 1½-bath unit in the 600 block of Elizabeth Street, between Castro and Diamond streets.

The condo was one of four sold during February, compared with one sale in January and six sales in February of last year. The average sales price was \$883,000, and units typically closed escrow between six and seven weeks.

A Snapshot of Noe Valley Rents**

Type of Unit	Number in Sample	Range of Rents Feb-Mar 2008	Average Feb-Mar 2008	Average Feb-Mar 2007
Studio	5	\$1,300 – \$1,800	\$1,555 / mo.	\$1,200 / mo.
1-bedroom	16	\$1,395 – \$2,750	\$1,867 / mo.	\$1,772 / mo.
2-bedroom	22	\$2,200 – \$6,400	\$3,103 / mo.	\$2,684 / mo.
3-bedroom	13	\$2,975 – \$6,700	\$4,325 / mo.	\$4,098 / mo.
4+-bedroom	8	\$3,250 – \$6,995	\$5,537 / mo.	\$4,733 / mo.

** Survey based on a sample of 64 Noe Valley listings appearing on Craigslist from Feb. 27 to March 17, 2008. NVV 4/08

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
Single-family homes						
February 2008	8	\$850,000	\$2,450,000	\$1,530,063	38	107%
January 2008	7	\$935,000	\$2,612,501	\$1,636,214	52	103%
February 2007	8	\$1,040,000	\$2,725,000	\$1,437,250	39	103%
Condominiums						
February 2008	4	\$609,000	\$1,200,000	\$882,750	41	100%
January 2008	1	\$1,150,000	\$1,150,000	\$1,150,000	58	96%
February 2007	6	\$475,000	\$1,050,000	\$810,000	47	103%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
February 2008	1	\$1,859,000	\$1,859,000	\$1,859,000	34	101%
January 2008	1	\$1,935,000	\$1,935,000	\$1,935,000	29	102%
February 2007	4	\$1,270,000	\$1,960,000	\$1,488,750	64	100%
5+-unit buildings						
February 2008	1	\$1,825,000	\$1,825,000	\$1,825,000	95	94%
January 2008	2	\$1,415,000	\$2,029,000	\$1,722,000	110	96%
February 2007	0	—	—	—	—	—

* Sales figures include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley is defined in this survey as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Voice* thanks Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyr-re.com) for supplying the sales data. NVV 4/08

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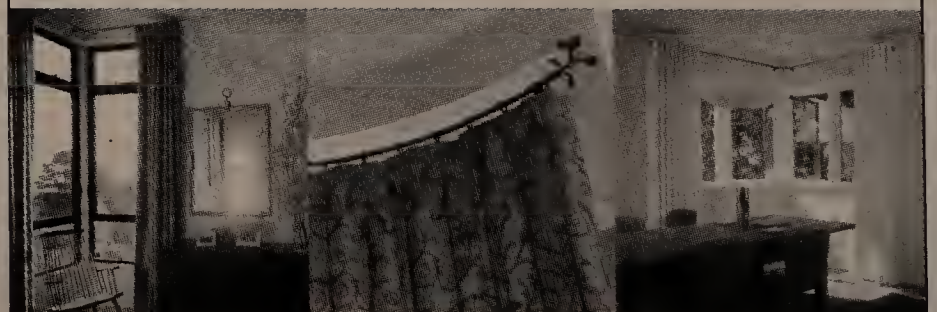
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CRIME BEAT

By Officer Jane Warner
San Francisco Patrol Special Police

The following crime summaries were culled from reports filed at Mission Police Station. They cover some but not all incidents occurring in Noe Valley from Feb. 16 to March 15, 2008. "Noe Valley," in this instance, is the area bounded by Grand View, 20th, Guerrero, and Cesar Chavez streets.

Theft from Vehicle: March 3, 10:40 a.m., Castro and Clipper

A man parked his car on the corner of Clipper and Castro and went to do some shopping. When he returned, he saw that the paint on his car had been scraped with a sharp object. A line went from the front of the car to the rear, and the letter "N" had been carved above the door lock. The door lock also had been punched, and the contents of the car had been rummaged through. The man discovered that a cell phone, the car's registration, and several CDs and school books had been taken. There are no known suspects.

Found Property: March 6, 4:32 p.m., unit block of Alvarado

While walking down the street, a man discovered two suspicious bags near a telephone pole and called police. When officers arrived, they looked inside the bags and found a PlayStation game, various clothing and personal papers, a pair of sunglasses, and a California driver's license. The officers gave the citizen a property receipt and ran the name on the driver's license, but nothing came up reported stolen. Officers confiscated the two bags and took them to Mission Station for safekeeping.

Burglary: March 6, 1:55 a.m. (reported), 3900 block of 24th

Police responded to an art supply store on 24th Street in response to an audible alarm. Upon arrival, officers discovered the store's front door open and the glass on the door shattered. The officers conducted a walk-through of the premises and found the cash register had been pried open. The owner of the store arrived and surveyed the scene, but told officers that nothing else appeared damaged nor was anything taken. Officers later contacted CSI to process for prints. There are no known suspects.

Driver w/o License: March 6, 10:55 a.m., 25th at Castro

An officer on routine patrol heard loud music blaring from a green Honda traveling more than a block away. The officer pulled the small sedan over for a noise infraction and a broken taillight. "Can I see your license?" the officer asked. The driver handed the officer a Washington state driver's license and told the officer he had been in California only for three days. The officer thought this was suspicious, however, since the car's registration was listed in the driver's name with a Daly City address. The man was cited for driving without a valid in-state license, excessively loud sound equipment, and a broken tail lamp. His vehicle was subsequently towed to Auto Return.

Aggravated Assault: March 7, 6:45 a.m., 25th and Vicksburg

While doing construction work on Vicksburg, a man was suddenly approached by a stranger holding a wooden cane in one hand and a newspaper in the other. The stranger mumbled something at the handyman and then, completely unprovoked, lifted the cane above his head and swung it from left to right in an attempt to hit him. Shocked, the worker ducked the blows. Without saying anything, the suspect kept walking south on Vicksburg. The stunned construction worker called police on his cell phone, and a short time later officers arrived. As the victim gave his description of the suspect, Noe Valley beat officer Calvin Chow recognized the man, and a computer check revealed that the suspect had a court date set for later that morning at 850 Bryant. Officer Chow responded to the Hall of Justice and found the suspect in the courtroom awaiting his court case. The suspect was cited for the attempted assault and given another court date to appear.

Malicious Mischief to Vehicles: March 7, 10:22 a.m. (reported), 4100 block of 24th and 400 block of Jersey

A man reported to police that his car had been

broken into while parked in front of his house overnight. The man reported the passenger-side window had been shattered and that his iPod and GPS system were missing from the glove box. Later that morning, officers received another report concerning a car break-in on the 400 block of Jersey. The victim reported that sometime during the night someone had smashed the wing window of her car and rummaged through the contents of her vehicle; however, nothing had been taken. The next day, Officer Lorraine Lombardo, on routine patrol, responded to a report of another car break-in, also on the 400 block of Jersey. The vehicle's window had been smashed and a computer bag taken from the rear seat. There are no known suspects. However, Lombardo confiscated two screwdrivers left at the scene and submitted them into evidence.

Burglary: March 10, 3:07 a.m., 1300 block of Castro

A janitor for a building on Castro Street heard a bang and went outside to find out what caused it. He saw a suspicious man pacing on the corner of Castro and 24th, and then noticed that the door to a local pottery store appeared open. When the janitor went to investigate, he saw a man standing inside the store. The janitor told the man to leave. "All right," said the suspect and walked out the door and headed north on Castro. The janitor called police, who called the owner. Upon arriving, the owner conducted a walk-through and reported that her laptop was missing.

Theft from Merchant: March 10, 4 p.m., 3900 block of 24th

Three teenagers came into a popular gift store on 24th Street and wandered around. After a while, the three ran out, sounding off the security sensor. The clerk followed the kids and found them inside a coffee shop two doors down the street. The clerk brought the kids back to the store and made them walk back through the security sensor again. Two of the teens did not set off the alarm, but the third did. The teen pulled out a book from his jacket and handed it over. The employee called 911. Officers arrived and took the juvenile to Mission Station, where he was cited and released to his parents.

Burglary: March 13, 2:40 a.m., 3900 block of 24th

Police responded to an audible alarm and found the side window of a corner store shattered and open. Officers entered the premises but found no one inside. A printer and chair were found knocked over in a small office area in the back of the store. The manager of the store arrived and told officers that the safe was missing. Officers contacted crime scene investigators to respond and dust for fingerprints. There are no known suspects.

Burglary: March 14, 2:22 a.m., 4000 block of 24th

Officers arrived at a 24th Street restaurant after receiving information about an alarm sounding. When they arrived, they found the front door closed but unlocked. Officers searched the restaurant and found no one inside. However, the office door was forced open and the room had been rummaged through. Papers were strewn about the floor, drawers were left open, and a locked wine cooler had suffered several large dents. An employee of the eatery arrived and told officers that despite the damage, nothing seemed to be missing. Officers determined that a tradesman door was the likely point of entry.

Aggravated Assault w/ Force: March 15, 1:49 a.m., 4000 block of 24th

Police responded to a large brawl in front of a bar on 24th Street. When they arrived, they saw about 10 adults fighting in the middle of the street. An officer observed one of the brawlers kick another in the head. The officer wrestled the assailant to the ground and placed him in handcuffs. Officers quickly got the fray under control and determined that five people were injured. However, none of the victims wanted medical attention; nor were they willing to press charges. All had been drinking. One woman, who had set her purse down on the sidewalk, noticed it was missing. She reported to officers that her missing shoulder bag contained her Ireland passport, \$2,000 in cash, and miscellaneous identification. Officers searched the area but could not find the bag. The crowd was dispersed, and the 23-year-old suspect who had been observed kicking was taken to Mission Station and booked for aggravated assault.

Officer Jane Warner is a member of the San Francisco Patrol Special Police. You can reach her by e-mailing sfpatrol@earthlink.net or calling 559-9955.

Report from Ingleside Station

In the past few issues of the Noe Valley Voice, something has been missing from our crime log: incidents from the part of Noe Valley that falls within the Ingleside Police District. That's because a change of command took place at Ingleside Police Station last fall, and Ingleside's new police captain, 26-year SFPD veteran Denis O'Leary, has been busy responding to requests for services and information. This month, however, Capt. O'Leary has personally submitted a crime log for the Upper Noe Valley neighborhood. Upper Noe Valley, in this instance, is the area south of Cesar Chavez Street, west of Guerrero/San Jose Avenue, north of 30th Street, and east of Diamond Heights Boulevard.

The incidents he lists below took place from Feb. 15 to March 14, 2008, and may not include all reports filed during that period.

If you would like to receive Capt. O'Leary's weekly e-mail newsletter, send an e-mail to InglesideStationNewsletter-subscribe@yahoo.com. You may also view updates online at www.sfgov.org.

In addition, you are welcome to attend the Ingleside Police District's monthly community meeting, held on the third Tuesday, 7 p.m., at Ingleside Station, 1 Sgt. John V. Young Lane, located off Balboa Park at San Jose Avenue. The station's number is 415-404-4000.

UPPER NOE VALLEY INCIDENTS

Capt. Denis O'Leary's Incident Report for Feb. 15 to March 14, 2008

Feb. 15, 5 a.m., Unit block of Day: A resident woke to find an acquaintance pounding on his front door. The acquaintance assaulted the resident. The suspect fled and the resident found him at San Jose Avenue and Day Street, where the victim was assaulted again. The suspect had fled when police arrived.

Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m., 1500 block of Dolores: A juvenile reported that she received threats on her cell phone's voicemail. She did not know who the suspect was.

Feb. 24, 12:15 p.m., 27th and Dolores: A woman parked her car on the 19th and upon her return five days later found another person's wallet inside her locked car. She did not know who left the wallet in the car. Officer Eric Hibler attempted to contact the wallet's owner, a resident of the 1300 block of Dolores Street, to no avail. The wallet and its contents were booked as evidence at Ingleside Station.

Feb. 24, 5 p.m., 100 block of Day: At 4 p.m. on Feb. 25, Officer Leonard Morrow responded to the 700 block of San Jose Avenue on the call of abandoned property. He found a brand-new bicycle carefully hidden in some shrubs. Officer Morrow found a store sticker on the bike and called the store, Valencia Cyclery. They contacted the bike's new owner, a resident of the 100 block of Day Street. She met with Officer Anthony Orge that evening and reported that she had last seen her bike on Feb. 24. There were no signs of forced entry.

Feb. 26, 11 p.m., 300 block of 29th: A 91-year-old resident reported that her condominium's storage locker had its lock cut off and its contents removed. She did not know

what had been taken, as her grandson used the locker and he was unavailable for the report. An additional loss report form was left for the grandson.

Feb. 25 or 26, 10:50 a.m., 300 block of 29th: A resident reported to police that he had received an e-mail from his apartment building's manager advising him that his storage locker had been broken into. The thief had cut the chainlink fence surrounding the locker and had removed the victim's bicycle. The report was filed March 6.

Feb. 29, 6 p.m., 500 block of 29th: Victim reported tax files and other paperwork taken from unlocked drawer inside home. No sign of forced entry. Report filed March 3.

March 7, 2:34 a.m., 1300 block of Dolores: A resident saw a man tampering with the lock to a parked truck and then saw the man inside the truck with a flashlight on. Officer Brandon Smith arrived, and the burglar, a 36-year-old Mission District man, ran from him. The thief surrendered without incident. The truck's owner was found, and he reported that he had locked his truck when he parked it. The burglar was booked at Ingleside Station.

March 10, 11:48 a.m., 1400 block of Guerrero: An apartment resident heard pounding outside and saw a man kicking in the back door of another apartment. The witness saw the burglar carry items away from the building. The witness followed the perpetrator but lost sight of the man in the area of St. Luke's Hospital. Officers from Ingleside Station searched the neighborhood for the suspect to no avail. Two apartments had been broken into.

Noe's Police Districts

Noe Valley falls under the jurisdiction of two San Francisco police districts: Mission and Ingleside. Mission Police Station covers the northern half of the neighborhood, including 24th Street, and Ingleside the southern half, starting at Cesar Chavez Street.

Both districts hold monthly meetings that are open to the public. Mission Police District's community meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month, at 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street. Ingleside's community meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at Ingleside Police Station off Balboa Park at San Jose Avenue.

To contact Mission Police, call 558-5400 or e-mail SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us. To contact Ingleside, call 404-4000 or e-mail SFPDInglesideStation@ci.sf.ca.us. To report a crime in progress, call 911. For non-emergencies or to make a report, call 553-0123.

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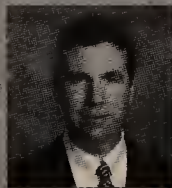
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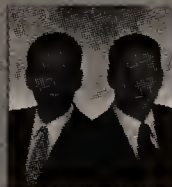
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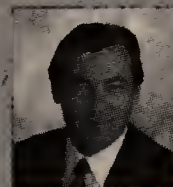
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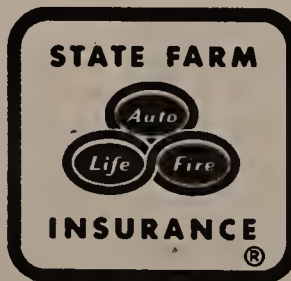
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SHORT TAKES

Benefit to Lift the Ministry

Two kid-friendly bands—the folky, jazzy Orange Sherbet and the pop-rock Playdate—are playing a double-header concert to benefit the Noe Valley Ministry on Saturday, April 5. The event, which will also offer food, drinks, a raffle, is called “Be Lifted Up: The Elevator Fundraiser.”

“The building is in need of some serious love,” says Jill Pierce, who sings and plays guitar with Tamsen Fynn and Steve Pierce in Orange Sherbet. For the past decade, Pierce has rented space to teach music at the Ministry, which is both a Presbyterian church and a community center housing a nursery school, 12-step programs, and dozens of classes and support groups. Pierce says she was so taken by the Ministry’s dedication to the arts, the needy, and the community, she became a member of the church. Now, she’s decided to help the Ministry raise funds for an elevator so people can more easily get to the second floor.

Ministry pastor Keenan Kelsey says the 122-year-old building has many needs—foundation, lighting, plumbing—but the elevator is the top priority. “Part of our total commitment to the neighborhood and anybody who uses this building is to make it accessible,” says Kelsey. “We wouldn’t do anything without doing that.” She estimates the elevator will cost \$100,000, which is currently beyond the budget of the small church.

Pierce and Kelsey hope the benefit will not only be a fun-filled evening but will also broadcast the Ministry’s message of “open arms.” “All are welcome, and that’s what this building is about,” Kelsey says.

The evening kicks off with Orange Sherbet at 4:30 p.m., playing an hour of hits from its four CDs: *Campfire Sing-Along*, *Jackson’s Lullaby*, *Ridin’*, and *Big Brother, Big Sister*. Be prepared for the band’s interactive show to end up with children on stage and beach balls bouncing through the audience.

From 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., concert-goers can enjoy finger food and refreshments and win raffle prizes including a seven-week summer music workshop for kids.

At 7:30 p.m., Playdate, a popular local band composed of “Noe Valley parents who rock for their kids,” will hold an Old School Rock Concert and raffle. Pierce says she has shared the stage with Playdate before, and when the two bands last appeared together, they ended up onstage at the same time singing Stevie Wonder’s “Sir Duke” with the whole audience.

If you’re coming just for the Playdate



Musicians Jill Pierce (left) and Tamsen Fynn, who have recorded four CDs as Orange Sherbet, will give a concert to benefit the Noe Valley Ministry on April 5.

half of the show, be sure to arrive between 6:30 and 7:30, to enjoy your share of food and prizes. The evening ends at 9 p.m.

Tickets for each concert cost \$20 to \$50 per family, or \$15 to \$30 per person, both on a sliding scale. The Noe Valley Ministry is located at 1021 Sanchez Street at 23rd Street. For information call the church at 282-2317.

Mass for Peace at St. Paul’s

The San Francisco Choral Society and the California Chamber Symphony will play out the tragedy of war in a performance of Karl Jenkins’ *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*, on Saturday and Sunday, April 5 and 6, at St. Paul’s Church.

Jenkins based his work on the Christian mass, using music to illustrate the glorification, heroism, and tragedy of war. High-pitched flutes, crashing drums, and lonely trumpets accompany sound affects and choral voices singing words from the Bible, the Koran, and Islamic and Hindu sources, and from writers as diverse as Rudyard Kipling, Alfred Lord Tennyson, and a survivor of Hiroshima. Commissioned by the Royal Armouries Museum for England’s millennium celebrations, the piece was initially dedicated to victims of the crisis in Kosovo. *The Armed Man* is the most popular choral work performed in the United Kingdom today.

The local performance is part of the Choral Society’s “Season for Peace” series, and Artistic Director Robert Geary will direct the singers. Featured soloists are soprano Lara Bruckmann, alto Jennie Nadig, tenor Michael Mendelsohn, baritone Paul Murray, and 12-year-old treble Matty Specht. Eugene Chukhlov will conduct the Chamber Symphony.

Says chorus member Annie Stuart, “*The Armed Man* mass has some incredibly memorable melodies, as well as some of the most beautiful harmonies in any piece we’ve ever performed.” She

also points out that St. Paul’s is an ideal setting for the piece, with its stained-glass windows from Munich and its altar made of marble from Carrara, Italy.

The April 5 performance begins at 8 p.m., and the April 6 performance at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$20 to \$28, depending on seating and age.

St. Paul’s is at 221 Valley Street at Church Street. Parking is available in the church parking lot on 29th Street for \$5 per car. Call the City Box Office at 392-4400 or visit www.cityboxoffice.com for tickets.

Something Sweet

“The Sugar’s at the Bottom of the Cup: Recalling One Woman’s San Francisco” is the name of a talk sponsored by the San Francisco History Association at St. Philip’s Church on Tuesday, April 29.

That one woman is Elda Del Bino Willitts, who left Lucca, Italy, with her family when she was 7 years old to join

her father and brother in San Francisco in 1916. Willitts and her family settled in North Beach at a time when gas lamps lit the streets and Cow Hollow had cows. Her mother never learned English, but she adapted her family to American life, making Thanksgiving turkey stuffed with ravioli filling, for example.

Poverty, family tragedy, the Great Depression, and war took their toll on Willitts, but she sustained herself by always remembering “the sugar’s at the bottom of the cup”—better times are yet to come.

In 2004, Willitts and journalist Patricia Lynn Henley co-wrote Willitts’ memoir, titled, naturally, *The Sugar’s at the Bottom of the Cup*. Willitts died a year later at the age of 95. But Henley will speak on her behalf at the History Association meeting. She’ll tell how she wove Willitts’ recollections into a story and what she learned while writing it.

The San Francisco History Association was founded in 1982 when a group of history buffs got together to share tips on collecting historical artifacts. The group, which meets monthly, is dedicated to preserving, remembering, and restoring San Francisco’s history.

Doors will open at 7 p.m. and refreshments will be served until the meeting starts at 8 p.m. Admission costs \$5 for non-members.

For information, call the SFHA at 750-9986 or visit its website at www.sanfranciscohistory.org. St. Philip’s is located at 725 Diamond Street near 24th Street.

Classical and Contemporary Concerts

Noe Valley Chamber Music will host two Sunday afternoon concerts this month, starting with a performance by “Bell, Hassman, and Moss” on April 6. Clar-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

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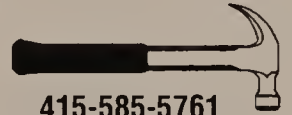
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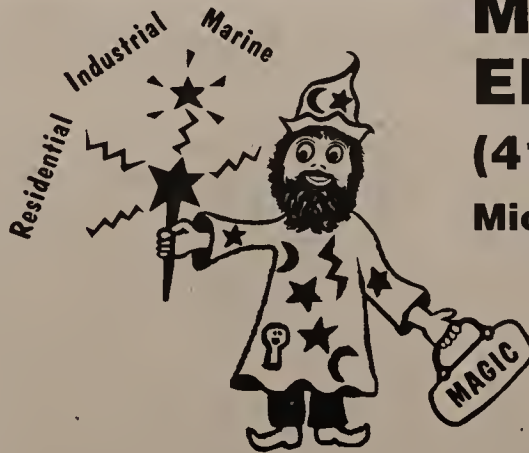


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SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

inetist Carey Bell, pianist Bryndon Hassman, and soprano Ann Moss have selected Franz Schubert's *Shepherd on the Rock*, Johannes Brahms' *Sonata for Clarinet and Piano in E-flat major*, and Francis Poulenc's *Sonata for Clarinet and Piano*, a 1962 work first performed by Benny Goodman and Leonard Bernstein.

Bell is the principal clarinetist with the San Francisco Symphony and previously played in the San Francisco Opera Orchestra. Hassman, a longtime accompanist and music coach with the San Francisco Opera, has worked on numerous productions, from Richard Strauss' *Capriccio* to *The Death of Klinghoffer* by 20th-century composer John Adams. (He also coached actor Robin Williams for his performance of an aria in *Mrs. Doubtfire*.) Boston native Ann Moss is a frequent performer and co-creator of contemporary pieces, collaborating with such well-known composers as Jake Heggie, John Harbison, Aaron Jay Kernis, Eric Sawyer, and Vartan Aghababian.

On April 27, the Adorno Ensemble, featuring strings, clarinet, piano, and percussion, will perform modern chamber music from around the world: Franghiz Ali-Zadeh's *Apsheon Quintet*, Kurt Erickson's *Faith*, Osvaldo Golijov's *K'vakarat*, and Zhou Long's *Ding*.

The ensemble is international itself. Pianist Keisuke Nakagoshi and violist Yoko Okayasu hail from Japan. Violinist Graeme Jennings comes from Australia. Members have started innovative projects outside their performances. Violinist

Cynthia Mei has created programs that develop music appreciation through visual art, and cellist Michael Graham created a highly successful outreach and education program during a two-year residency in Pennsylvania. Clarinetist Ginger Kroft Barnetson teaches at Santa Clara University and plays with orchestras from Fresno to Monterey. Jennings, percussionist Christopher Froh, and Bill Everett, who will play the double bass, have a strong interest in modern music, and have performed worldwide.

Both concerts begin at 4 p.m. and cost \$18 for general admission. All concerts in the Chamber Music Series, now in its 15th season, are held at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street at 23rd Street. For tickets or more information, including the rest of the 2008 concert lineup, call 648-5236 or go to www.nvcm.org.

A Sinfully Funny Show

Noe Valley resident James Judd will present his award-winning solo show *Seven Sins* at Theatre Rhinoceros Studio starting Friday, April 4. Begun as a local group performance, the 75-minute comedy has toured the Canadian Fringe Festival and will travel to New York and the Edinburgh Festival later this year.

The show, subtitled "my life of envy, greed, gluttony, pride, lust, sloth, and wrath," chronicles Judd's adventures growing up in Saratoga, Calif. In the greed category, he tells how he sought to win a fifth-grade book report competition with a report on Steve Weed's *My Search for Patty Hearst*. Next, he convinced his mom to pay him for re-enacting episodes of the soap opera *The Young and the Restless*. Stories from later years recount jobs that were easy, hard, or insane, all of them described with fast-paced humor and without unitards, Judd points out.

A graduate of the University of San Francisco, Judd has performed in the San



Noe Valley resident James Judd performs his solo show *Seven Sins* at Theatre Rhinoceros on 16th Street April 4-26.

Francisco Comedy Competition and on *Star Search* and *An Evening at the Improv*. He also was a member of the Groundlings improvisational theater in Los Angeles. The *Rochester Democrat & Chronicle* once called him "David Sedaris on a pot of coffee."

Tickets for *Seven Sins* cost \$10, though Judd offers them free to anyone with the ability to cast the first stone. ("Note," he says, "ability to cast the first stone requires proof. Also note, rocks are not permitted in the theater.")

Shows will run on Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. through April. Theatre Rhinoceros is located at 2926 16th Street near the 16th Street BART Station. Call 861-5079 or go to www.therhino.org for more information.

Fair Bargains on a Fair Street

Fair Oaks Street will host its annual five-block street fair, flea market, and spring festival on Saturday, May 10. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., a hundred families will throw open their garages and lay out their wares on the Fair Oaks Street sidewalks from 21st to 26th streets.

Fair Oaks Street resident Barbara May has lived in the neighborhood since 1978 but says the fair—always occurring on the day before Mother's Day—preceded her arrival. It now attracts thousands of shoppers, she says.

The street has an equal share of old-timers and newcomers, which makes for a nice range of bargains, she notes. Now and then, a family offers up its antique silver or treasured Christmas tree ornaments. "The vibes are still on them," says May of these memory-laden antiques.

She says some residents with Silicon Valley tastes put out barely used high-end blenders and appliances, while others may display homemade crafts like aprons and crocheted blankets. Kids have fun getting their faces painted and running the lemonade stand.

"You see someone walking by carrying a tire and someone else walking by carrying a ceramic elephant, and they all have the same expression on their face: I got a great deal," May says. "People's definition of treasure really varies."

The event is also a great community-building opportunity, she adds. One time, May introduced the mother of a 2-month-old child to a woman who was expecting a baby. "They'll baby-sit for each other down the line!"

Composting and Hardscaping

Garden for the Environment will offer three free gardening workshops in April at its half-acre organic demonstration garden on Seventh Avenue at Lawton Street.

The first class, "Urban Composting," will be held on Saturday, April 5. The hands-on workshop will teach backyard and worm composting and show how to convert kitchen scraps and yard trimmings into mulch.

On April 12, there's a workshop on "Hardscaping: How to Conserve Water in Your Landscape," led by Building Resources, a junkyard focused on recycling and education. Attendees will learn techniques that reduce the ecological footprint of a lawn, plus ways to build beautiful and funky garden pathways, beds, and containers using recycled materials.

On April 19, gardeners can learn the basics of resource-efficient gardening at a workshop called "Sustainable Landscape Design." Workshop leaders will discuss drought-tolerant plants and lawn alternatives, and go over plant colors and layouts for theme gardens.

The compost and water conservation workshops are funded by grants from the city. Be aware they fill up fast.

All classes run from 10 a.m. to noon at the garden itself. Call 731-5627 or e-mail info@gardenfortheenvironment.org to find out more or reserve a spot.

This month's Short Takes were written by Heather World.



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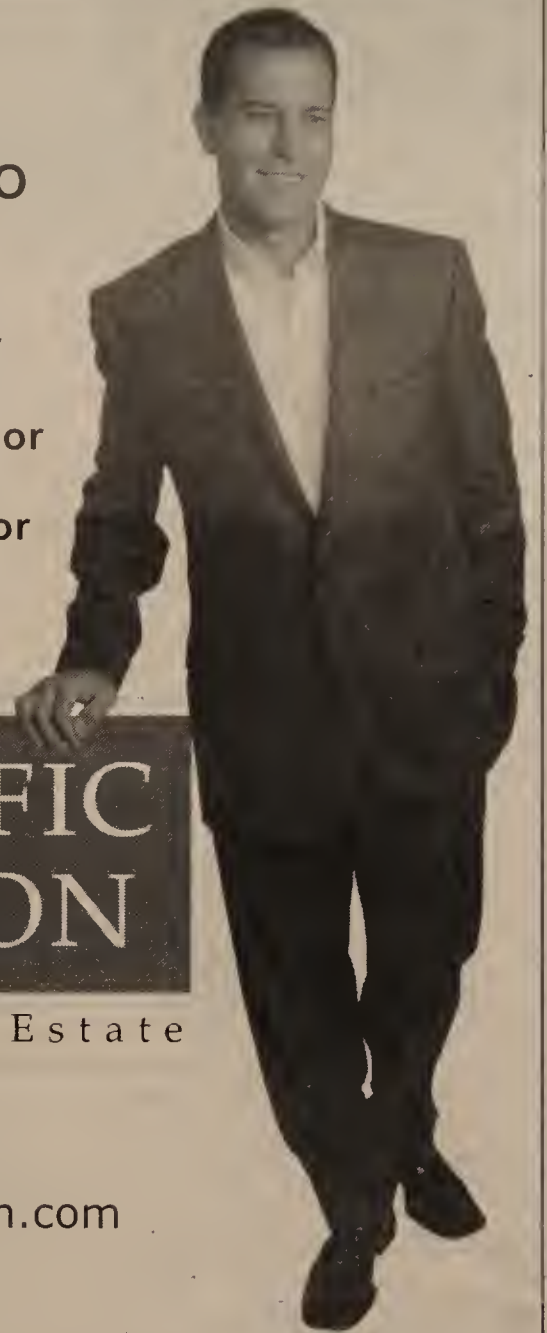
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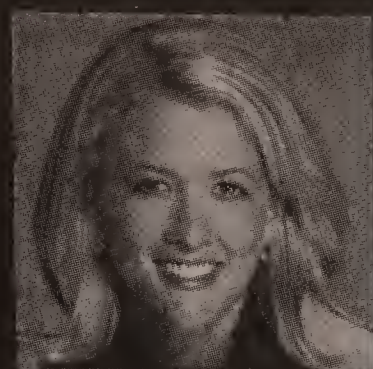
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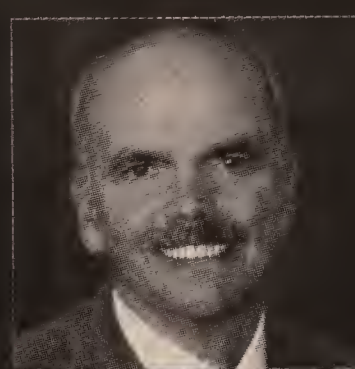
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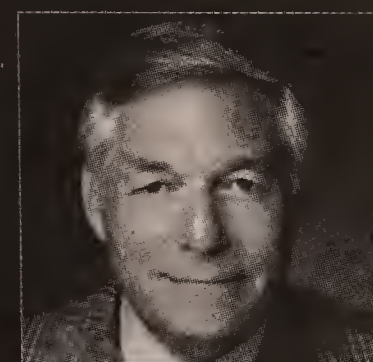
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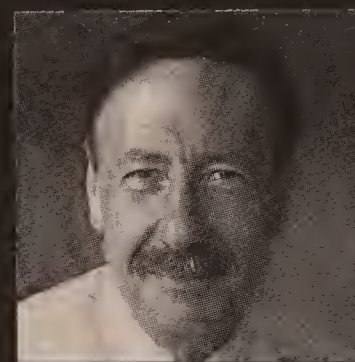
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APRIL 2008

April 1, 8, 15 & 29: The Noe Valley Library sponsors LAPSITS for babies and toddlers at 10:15 am, and preschool STORY TIME at 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; www.sjpl.org.

April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: "Tot/Parent Spanish," sponsored by LANGO, begins at 10 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; www.langokids.com.

April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: Chris Sequeira teaches beginner TAI CHI at 6 pm on Tuesdays. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Register: 773-8185 or 650-756-6857.

April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: The Kadampa Buddhist Temple holds MEDITATION on Tuesdays. 7-8:30 pm. 3324 17th. 503-1187.

April 1-20: Noe Valley PHOTOGRAPHERS Angelika Schilli and Alan George are among the exhibitors in "Whimsy" at the Bay Area Photographers Collective. Tues.-Thu., noon-10 pm; Fri.-Sun., 10 am-8 pm. Rayko Gallery, 428 3rd. 495-3773; www.bapc.info.

April 1-23: CREATIVITY EXPLORED hosts a group exhibition of abstract art, "The Untitled." Reception March 6, 7-9 pm. 3245 16th. 863-2108; www.creativityexplored.org.

April 1-26: Little Tree Gallery features CASEY LOGAN'S "Come Celebrate the Knowledge You Never Knew You Had." Reception April 5, 6-9 pm; Wed.-Sat., noon-6 pm. 3412 22nd. 643-4929.

April 1-30: OVEREATERS ANDNYMDUS meets Mon. through Sat., 7 to 8 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

April 1-30: Noe Valley SENIOR CENTER serves hot lunches for people over 60, weekdays at 12:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-1030.

April 1-May 4: Voice contributor LED HOLUB exhibits photographs in a group show, "Prelude to Spring," at the Himmelberger Gallery. 445A Sutter. 391-8383.

April 1-May 16: Salvadoran artist Victor Cartagena creates a large MULTIMEDIA installation, "The Invisible Nation." Tues.-Sat., noon-6 pm. Galería de la Raza, 2857 24th. 826-8009; www.galeriadelaraza.org.

April 1-May 16: Noe Valley resident Janet Kessler exhibits "Myca of Twin Peaks," photos of a COYOTE she met on her daily walks. Seed Gallery, Presidio Bldg. 1014, Lincoln & Torney. 561-7823.

April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: Danielle is the STORYTELLER (with help from baby Charlotte) at Cover to Cover's Wednesday story hour. 3-4 pm. 1307 Castro. 282-8080.

April 2-26: "GREEN" is the theme of a group art exhibit at CITY ART Cooperative Gallery. Reception April 4, 7 to 10 pm. Wed.-Sun., noon-9 pm. 828 Valencia. 970-9900; www.cityartgallery.org.

April 3: SF Suicide Prevention stages a "Laughs for Life" FUNDRAISER featuring comics Josh Blue, Yayne Abeba, and Doug Ferrari. 6:30-9:30 pm. Bimbo's 365 Club, 1025 Columbus. 984-1900; www.sfsuicide.org.

April 3 & 4: Grammy winner Susana Baca performs AFRD-PERUVIAN music at Brava. 8 pm. 2789 24th. 647-2822; www.brava.org.

April 3-19: DAN HDYLE's *Tings Dey Happen* returns to the Marsh. Thu. & Fri., 8 pm; Sat. 8:30 pm. 1062 Valencia. 1-800-838-3006; www.themarsh.org.

April 3, 10, 17 & 24: Meet at Holey Bagel for a Thursday STROLLER WALK. 11 am. 3872 24th. www.noestrolls.com.

April 4: Todd Berman exhibits PAINTINGS at the Artist Xchange. Reception, 7-10 pm. 3169 16th. 864-1490; www.theartdontstop.org.

April 4, 11, 18 & 25: Bird & Beckett bookstore hosts a CHILDREN'S STORY TIME Fridays at 11 am. 653 Chenery. 586-3733.

April 4, 11, 18 & 25: Friday BINGO at St. Paul's begins at 7 pm (doors open at 5 pm). Parish Hall, 221 Valley. 648-7338.

April 4-26: Noe Valley resident JAMES JUDD performs a solo comedy, *Seven Sins*. Fri. & Sat., 8 pm. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th. 861-5079; www.rhino.org.

April 5: The Swinging GUITARS (8:30 am) and Failure to Disperse (10:30 am) play the Farmers' Market. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

April 5: The Noe Valley Ministry's fundraiser for an ELEVATOR features a raffle, finger food (5:30-7:30), and music by Drange Sherbet (4:30 pm) and Playdate (7:30-9 pm). 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; www.noevalleyministry.org.

April 5: Terra Mia hosts an ART AUCTION to benefit Rocket Dog Rescue. 5-9 pm. 1314 Castro. 642-9911; www.rockdogrescue.org.

April 5: Pianist Davide Verotta presents a program of PIANO WORKS from the 18th to 21st centuries, including Beethoven's Sonata Opus 109. 8 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp. info@newmusicbayarea.org.

April 5: Noe Valley band RUPA & the April Fishes celebrates its new release, *Extraordinary Rendition*. 8 pm. Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell. 800-225-2277; www.gamhtickets.com.

April 5: Artist Richard Lang discusses creativity "From Stonehenge to Shadow Puppets to Electric Works" at the BERNAL BUBBLES Soapbox Lecture. 10-10:30 pm. 397 Cortland. 821-9530; www.sfelectricworks.com.

April 5 & 6: The SF CHORAL SOCIETY performs Welsh composer Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* at St. Paul's Church. Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 7:30 pm. 221 Valley. 392-4400; www.sfchoral.org.

April 5-27: Park rangers lead WALKING TOURS along SF's northern waterfront; sponsored by the National Park Service. Sat. & Sun., 10:30-11:30 am. 447-5000; www.nps.gov/safr.

April 6: Spring Pilates and Yoga hosts "PILATES for the Planet," an Earth Day benefit for BioFuel Dasis, a woman-owned alternative fuel coop. 11 am-noon. 1414 Castro. 282-8850; www.springpilates.com.

April 6: Rocket DDG RESCUE shows off adoptable dogs, in front of Zephyr Real Estate. Noon-4 pm. 4040 24th. 642-4786.

April 6: Celebrate VINCENT VAN GOGH's birthday with "Working-Class Hero and Spiritual Mystic," a slideshow by Marlene Aron. 1:30-4 pm. Rozanoff Art, 355 29th. Register at 641-5203 or maronart@yahoo.com.

April 6: The Golden Gate MEN'S CHORUS performs a concert, "Sharing Our Future." 2-5 pm. Vanguard Properties, 2501 Mission. 668-GGMC; www.ggmc.org/events.

April 6: Soprano Ann Moss, pianist Robin Sutherland and clarinet player Carey Bell perform music by Brahms, Poulenc, and Schubert at Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC. 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. www.nvcm.org.



Ali Mafi is among the star lineup at the April 11 Café con Comedy show at Dolores Park Café.

April 6-June 30: The founding members of A Woman's Eye Gallery exhibit "SPRING Through a Woman's Eye." Reception April 6, noon-5 pm. Sat. & Sun., noon-5 pm. 678 Portola. 731-6470; www.AWEGallery.com.

April 7: A RESOURCE FAIR for older women is co-hosted by the Jewish Community Center and Kaiser Permanente. 10 am-3 pm. 3200 California. 292-1200; www.jccsf.org.

April 7: New College Law School offers a tree WRKSHDP on how to present a case in small claims court. 6 pm. 50 Fell. 241-1300.

April 7: Bay Area poets Katharine Harer and Emmanuel Williams read poems inspired by paintings, at the ODD MNDAYS series at the Noe Valley Ministry. 7 pm, preceded by

no-host dinner at Noe Valley Pizza, 5:30 pm (rsvp.jlsender@webtv.net). 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

April 7, 14, 21 & 28: The SF Vegetarian Society and the Cancer Project offer a free CODKING demo and lecture series. 6-8 pm. Institute on Aging, 3600 Geary. Preregister. 273-5481.

April 7-May 2: Visit "Dynasty: The Ancestral Arts of China," an EXHIBIT of paintings and sculptures from the Qing Dynasty. SF State, Humanities 510, Font & Tapia. 405-0599; www.sfsu.edu.

April 8: Amnesty International hosts a panel discussion, "BEIJING OLYMPICS and Human Rights" (3-5 pm) at the Main Library, 100 Larkin, followed by a rally and vigil (6-9 pm) at the Civic Center. 252-1750.

April 8: Journalist Kelly Corrigan reads from her MEMOIR, *The Middle Place*, at the Noe Valley Library. 7-8:30 pm. 451 Jersey. 647-8393; www.sjpl.org.

April 9: COMEDIAN Brian Wetzel performs *Side by Side: A Journey with Depression*. 7:30 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 1-800-838-3006; www.themarsh.org.

April 10: Learn the samba, rhumba, tango, and more at a six-week BALLROOM dancing class for couples on Thursday evenings. Forest Hill Christian Church Hall, 250 Laguna Honda. Preregister 661-2746.

April 10: Senior students from the Visual Arts Department exhibit their ARTWORK in the third floor SOTA Gallery. Reception 5:30 pm. SF School of the Arts, 555 Portola. 695-5720; www.sfsota-ptsa.org.

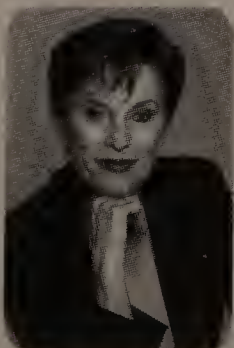
April 11: The SF GIRLS CHORUS presents its annual gala and fundraiser. Dinner reception 6:30 pm; concert 7:30 pm. Palace Hotel, 2 New Montgomery. 863-1752, ext. 306.

April 11: Kung Pao Kosher Comedy holds the fourth annual Café con COMEDY, featuring comedians Ali Mafi, Julia Jackson, Gretchen Rootes, Carla Clay, Lisa Geduldig, and Doug Ferrari. 7:30 pm. Dolores Park Café, 501 Dolores. www.doloresparkcafe.com; 522-3737.

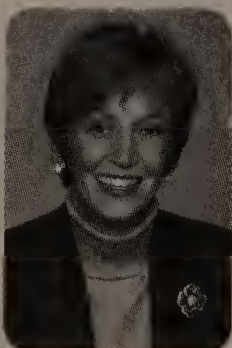
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CALENDAR

April 11: City College screens *The Life and Times of ROSIE the Riveter*, at its Mission Campus. 8 pm. 1125 Valencia, Room 254. 239-3899.

April 12: The Noe Valley Farmers' Market hosts MUSIC by the Faux Brummels (8:30 am) and They Call Me Lucky (10:30 am). 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

April 12: The San Francisco ZOO holds an all-ages volunteer workday, with work gloves, tools, and refreshments provided. Second Sat., 8-11 am. 1 Zoo Road (off Sloat near the Great Highway). 753-7173.

April 12: PLAYWRIGHTS from the SF School of the Arts Creative Writing Department show their latest work. 7:30 pm. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. 695-5720; www.sfsola-plsa.org.

April 12-May 17: SF Nature Education leads walks around Stow Lake in Golden Gate Park, to observe the Great Blue HERONS and their chicks. Sat., 10 am-1 pm. Follow signs from the Stow Lake Boathouse. 387-9160; www.sfnature.org.

April 13: Drop off ELECTRONIC WASTE (TVs, computers, printers, fax machines, cell phones, DVD players, stereo equipment, and typewriters) free at Fairmount School from 9 am to 2 pm. 65 Chenery. 695-5669.

April 13: The California NATIVE PLANT Society offers a free self-paced tour of local gardens. 10 am-2 pm. For locations: www.cnps-yerbabuena.org/gardentour.

April 15: Nobody from Ipanema performs live samba music at ELBO ROOM. 6 pm. 647 Valencia. 552-7788; www.elbo.com.

April 16: City College sponsors "Visions of Peace & Justice," a ROUNDTABLE on the role of graphic artists in social movements. 7-9:30 pm. 1125 Valencia. 920-6045.

April 16: Susan Griffin reads and signs *Wrestling with the Angel of Democracy: On Being an AMERICAN CITIZEN*. 7 pm. The Booksmith, 1644 Haight. 863-8688; www.booksmith.com.

April 17: St. Luke's Hospital holds a VOLUNTEER orientation the third Thursday of the month. 3-5 pm. 3555 Cesar Chavez. 641-6538; www.stlukes-sf.org.

April 17: The UPPER NOE Neighbors meeting includes a 20th anniversary celebration and the election of officers. 7:30 pm. 30th Street Senior Center, 225 30th. 285-0473.

April 18-27: City College's Theater Arts and Music Departments present *CABARET*, set in 1929 Berlin. Fri. & Sat., 8 pm; Sun, 2 pm. Diego Rivera Theater, 40 Phelan. 239-3100.

April 19: Jude (8:30 am) and Devil's Slide (10:30 am) perform at the Farmers' Market. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

April 19: A GARAGE SALE organized by the SF Parents of Multiples Club offers clothing, furniture, and toys for kids. 9 am-3 pm. County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park. 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way. For free admission flyer: www.sfpom.org/consignment_sale/index.html.

April 19: Sharon Art Studio holds its REGISTRATION for summer art camps for youth 12 to 16. 10 am-noon. Golden Gate Park next to the Children's Playground. 753-7004; www.sharonartstudio.org.

April 19: Southern Exposure invites you to a "VAPOR SYMPOSIUM," a daylong gathering of speakers on climate change and the arts. 10 am-5 pm. Calif. College of the Arts, 1111 8th. at Irwin. 863-2141; www.soex.org.

April 19: LYNN HAZEN introduces her new children's book, *Cinder Rabbit*, at Cover to Cover. 3 pm. 1307 Castro. 282-8080; www.lynnhazen.com.

April 19: Hear a talk on whaling ship captain WILLIAM SHOREY, known as the "Black Ahab," sponsored by the National Park Service. 6 pm. Maritime Library, Fort Mason, Building E. 561-7040 or 447-5000.

April 19: A Progressive Reading to Save RENT CONTROL includes appearances by Jane Smiley, Yiyun Li, Charlie Anders, Michelle Richmond, and Jeff O'Keefe. 7 pm. The Makeout Room, 3225 22nd. 647-2888; www.progressivereadingseries.org.

April 19 & 20: The SF SPCA celebrates its 140th anniversary with activities including a Sunday Animal Assisted Therapy ART AUTION. 11 am-3 pm. Maddie's Adoption Center, 250 Florida. 554-3000.

April 20: A "South of Cesar" BICYCLE RIDE, sponsored by the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, travels through neighborhoods below Army/Chavez. 11 am-2 pm. Meet at the southwest corner of Valencia and 24th. 431-BIKE; www.sfbike.org.

April 20: "The Butterfly Effect," a benefit for the Jeffrey Hartgraves CANCER FUND, features Veronica Klaus, Connie Champagne, and Trauma Flinstone. 7:30 pm. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th. 861-5079.

April 21: Vocalist Raquel Bitton performs "Piaf: Her Story... Her Songs," at the ODD MONDAYS series. 7 pm, preceded by no-host dinner at Noe Valley Pizza, 5:30 pm (rsvp jlsender@webtv.net). 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

April 21: Erik S. Hagiwara-Nagata discusses the history of the JAPANESE TEA GARDEN at Strybing Arboretum. 7 pm. Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue & Lincoln. 661-1316; www.sfbotanicalgarden.org.

April 21: UCSF Professor Tejal Desai discusses NANOTECHNOLOGY in medicine. 7-9 pm. Atlas Café, 3049 20th. 648-1047; www.sciencecafest.com.

April 22: The Noe Valley Library shows FILMS for preschoolers at 10:15 and 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; www.stpl.org.

April 22: SF's Green program coordinators Mark Palmer and Rich Chien will offer tips on GREENING your home or apartment, in honor of Earth Day. 2-3:30 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin. www.stpl.org.

April 24: Peekabootique's PARENTS PARTY offers wine, Orangina, and goldfish crackers. 5:30-7:30 pm. 1306 Castro. 641-6192.

April 24: Chris Carlsson speaks on "Nowtopia: How Pirate Programmers, Outlaw Bicyclists, and Vacant-Lot Gardeners Are Inventing the Future Today." 7 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia. 282-9246.

April 24: Naturalist Jim Mackey discusses the ecology of San Pedro Valley County Park at the NATURAL HISTORY Lecture Series at the Randall Museum. 7:30 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600; www.randallmuseum.org.

April 26: Misisipi Mike (8:30 am) and Swing Serenade (10:30 am) play the Noe Valley FARMERS' MARKET. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

April 26: Join in a day of SACRED HARP singing at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House. 9 am-3 pm. Potluck at noon. 953 De Haro. 510-845-4231.

April 26: Local POET Jane Rice discusses her book inspired by paintings from Paris in the 1930s, *Portrait Sitters*. 2-3 pm. Glen Park Library, 2825 Diamond. 337-4740.

April 26: HOUSTON JONES performs bluegrass, folk, blues, and gospel music at the Noe Valley Ministry. 8:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

April 27: A YOGA BASICS workshop at Spring Pilates and Yoga includes a week of classes. 10 am-noon. 1414 Castro. Preregister at 282-8850; www.springpilates.com.

April 27: The SIPPY CUPS band performs at Bimbo's 365 at 1 pm and 4 pm. 1025 Columbus.

April 27: The Adorno Ensemble performs modern CHAMBER MUSIC from around the world. 4 pm. Noe Valley Chamber Music at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. www.nvcm.org.

April 27: A benefit for Bird & Beckett Books features readings by POETS David Meltzer, Diane di Prima, and Michael McClure. 4-7 pm. 653 Chenery. 586-3733; www.birdbeckett.com.

April 27: The Friends of the Urban Forest and Greens Restaurant co-host "San Francisco Grown," a dinner to BENEFIT FUF's urban greening programs. 5:30-8:30 pm. Fort Mason. 561-6890; www.fuf.net.

April 28: Author Valerie Mason-Johnson, aka Oueenie, and Dalit activist Malati Wankhede discuss *Broken Voices: "UNTOUCHABLE" Women Speak Out*. 7 pm.

Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia. 282-9246.

April 29: Patricia Lynn Henley discusses a book co-written with Elda Del Bino Willits (1909-2005), *The Sugar's at the Bottom of the Cup: Recalling One Woman's San Francisco*, at the SF History Association meeting. 7 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond. 750-9986; www.sanfranciscohistory.org.

April 30: Today is the deadline for applications for ARTISTS who wish to be considered for the Central Subway public art program. Go to www.callforentry.org.

May 1: Apply to the Marsh YOUTH THEATER by May 1 and you'll get a discount on the July/August programs. 1062 Valencia. 826-5750; myl@thmarsh.org.

May 3, 10 & 17: A three-part "Introduction to ORGANIC GARDENING" includes garden design. 10 am-1 pm. Garden for the Environment, 7th Ave. at Lawton. Preregister 731-5627; info@gardenfortheenvironment.org.

May 4: "Big Bash at the Clubhouse" introduces Bird & Beckett's CULTURAL LEGACY Project, a new nonprofit to present local musicians and poets. 2-7 pm. Miraloma Clubhouse, 350 O'Shaughnessy. 586-3733; www.birdbeckett.com.

May 10: A hundred families will participate in a five-block STREET FAIR and flea market on Fair Oaks Street between 21st and 26th streets. 9 am-4 pm.

May Deadline April 15

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the May issue, appearing in Noe Valley by Monday, May 5. If you send us your calendar items by the **April 15** deadline, we'll do our best to publish them. Write *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114, or e-mail calendar@noevalleyvoice.com. Note: Events in Noe Valley get first preference, but we'll consider items from all around the city.

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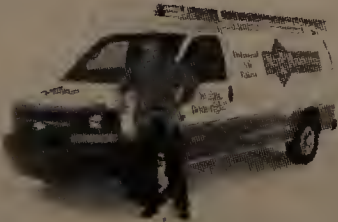
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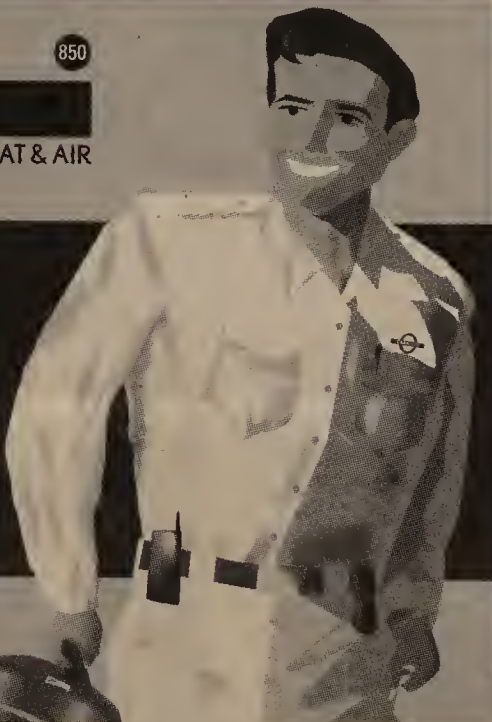
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STORE TREK

By Lorraine Sanders

Store Trek is a regular feature of the *Noe Valley Voice*, introducing new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we highlight a new hair salon in the "mini-mall" behind Savor Restaurant, and an art gallery and event space near St. Paul's on 29th Street.

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Sometimes the future has a funny way of arriving ahead of time. Such was the case for friends Gillian Hanson and Gilbert Pickett, owners of Noe Valley's newest destination for hair, Honeycomb Salon.

"We had talked about going into business like three years from now," says Pickett. However, one day last fall, as they ate lunch at Savor on 24th Street, they noticed a store space for rent in the courtyard behind the restaurant.

"A week later, we were signing a lease," recalls Hanson, 33.

"It all just kind of fell into place," continues Pickett, 38.

On Dec. 1, they opened their doors at 3915 24th Street. (To find the shop, just walk down the alley to the right of Savor.)

The two stylists, both Bernal Heights residents, share more than a penchant for finishing each other's sentences and a love of hair. "We're like weird twins separated at birth. We have the same zodiac, we have similar names, we have the same ATM pin, randomly. We both pick the white vanilla cupcake over the chocolate one," laughs Hanson.

They also have similar experience working in hair salons—Pickett comes most recently from Willow salon in the South of Market area; Hanson from Bella Union in the Lower Haight. In addition, they're glad to be in Noe Valley, one of their favorite neighborhoods.

For Hanson, the move meant a return to her former stomping grounds. Before entering Miss Marty's School of Beauty, where she and Pickett met, she was the assistant manager at the Aveda store on 24th Street.

In remodeling the Honeycomb space,

"our philosophy was to keep it simple, keep it clean," Pickett says. "We wanted to bring downtown sophistication"—"minus the pretension," interjects Hanson—"to Noe Valley."

Inside the salon, a central skylight allows natural light to illuminate two stylist stations on the main floor and two additional stations in a small upstairs loft. (The upstairs ones are currently available for rent.) Hanson and Pickett tapped friend and interior designer Joshua Rowland to punctuate the shop's dramatic honey-hued back wall with hexagonal shapes that look like honeycombs. A pair of white leather chairs sit just inside the entrance. To the left, Davines hair-care products line a set of shelves. The upscale Italian brand, known for its eco-conscious business practices, is the only one the salon carries.

Salon services include haircuts (\$60 and up), color (\$80 and up), and highlights (\$135 and up). Hanson also offers on- and off-site bridal hair and makeup services, which she recommends scheduling at least three months prior to the big day. While Pickett considers color his forte, Hanson has a knack for working with curly locks. Another perk? Clients undergoing longer treatments can order up lunch from Savor.

To celebrate the opening, Honeycomb is offering its clients, both old and new, a free hair and scalp treatment and head massage. If you'd like to take advantage of this offer, be sure to mention it when booking your appointment.

The salon is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hours are seasonal and may change.



Hairstylists Gillian Hanson and Gilbert Pickett opened their Honeycomb Salon in December. Photo by Pamela Gerard



Anna Efanova and husband Andre Rozanoff have created a unique gallery on 29th Street. The April show includes sculpture by Vera Costa, Martin Freeman, Jane Grimm, Joel Hoyer, Debra Koppman, and Crystal Morey. Photo by Pamela Gerard

ROZANOFF ART

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Just as the future has a funny habit of showing up early, it also has a way of ushering in the unexpected. This was certainly true for artist Anna Efanova, who opened Rozanoff Art with her husband, Andre Rozanoff, in September.

"I grew up in a family of artists, and I didn't want to be one because there were so many of them. My mom always wanted me to be a doctor," says Efanova, who grew up in St. Petersburg, Russia, and now lives with her husband and 9-year-old son in Glen Park.

Along with sister Julia Efanova, a New York artist, Anna was surrounded by artists from an early age. Both grandparents were artists, and their father was a prominent Russian architect. Whether it was nurture or nature that drew her into the art world and turned her into a realist oil painter, Efanova isn't sure. She just knows that it happened gradually during years living in New York, where she and her husband owned a gallery on the Upper East Side.

After relocating to San Francisco a little more than two years ago, Efanova, 32, and Rozanoff, 41, began looking for a space to house a new gallery. They found just what they were looking for along a quiet stretch of 29th Street, opposite St. Paul's School.

"I want it to be a cozy artistic space. I want people to know it's not a big, fancy gallery. It's a place to come and have a cup of tea and chat about art and look at our current exhibition," she says.

Inside the three-room, apartment-like space painted in neutral brown and gray

hues, Efanova and Rozanoff feature rotating exhibits, usually on a monthly basis. Shows have included "Affordable Art," "Nudes," and the current "Three Dimensional," an exhibit of sculptural works by six artists. The couple try to feature Bay Area artists in the gallery whenever possible.

As for the overall aesthetic that drives what they choose to exhibit, Efanova reports that there is a wide range, thanks in large part to her and her husband's differing tastes.

"Andre's more conceptual, and I think I approach everything through the visual point of view. For me, concept is not as important as it is for him," she says.

Prices for the art on display vary from show to show, but Rozanoff and Efanova aim to keep them relatively affordable. In general, pieces range anywhere from \$250 to \$6,000 or more.

Efanova also uses the space for workshops, events, and children's art classes. On April 6, local artist Marlene Aron is offering an afternoon workshop and slideshow presentation entitled "Working Class Hero and Spiritual Mystic: The Life and Work of Vincent Van Gogh."

And on April 17, Efanova kicks off a monthly offering called Creative Night Out, an evening get-together for anyone who'd like to work on an art or craft project in the company of others. For \$10, Efanova supplies an activity (though attendees are welcome to bring their own), as well as wine, tea, and snacks.

For budding artists, Efanova teaches 1½-hour Saturday classes to small groups of five or six students. The recommended ages for the classes are 5 to 12. In April, she is adding after-school classes to the schedule. Saturday classes are \$15. The series of after-school classes is \$120 for instruction throughout April and May.

"I see how much kids like to do art, but even in private schools, they don't have enough art education," Efanova says.

In each class, Efanova introduces students to a particular artist or art genre and asks them to create their own work based on the work they've just learned about.

"If we talked about African sculpture, I would ask them to make a sculpture about their own culture.... I try to expose kids to different art and tell them that they don't have to do realistic art. I think it is not always important to do realism," Efanova explains.

For event information and registration details, call Rozanoff Art or visit the gallery's website. The gallery is open Monday through Friday, noon to 7 p.m., and for scheduled classes and events. ■



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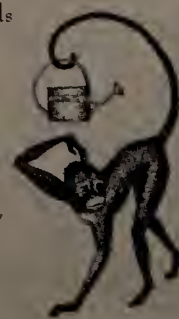
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Easter Bright. OK, let's go over the egg hunt list: collection sacks – check. Sunglasses – check. Digital camera – check. Crawlers up off the grass – check. The above group of treats seekers waits for the signal to get started on March 22 at Noe Courts. Photo by Bill Yenne

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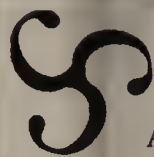
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Photo of Paula, canine customer Boris, and Celia by Pamela Gerard

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On the Street Where We Live

Editor's Note: Florence Holub first wrote this column for the Voice in March 1996, but many landmarks in the 3600 block of 21st Street, such as "Sunny Jim's" hilltop cottage at Sanchez Street, still exist today.

Our block of 21st Street rises abruptly, almost perpendicularly, from Church Street to the top of the hill at Sanchez. This hilltop, known as Dolores Heights (more recently Sanchez Hilltop, or Battle Mountain, as our Rumors columnist likes to call it!) was designated for preservation in the Urban Design Plan of 1971.

Because of its unique visual form and character, Dolores Heights is one of the areas that makes San Francisco famous throughout the world. With its interplay of architecture, steep terrain, scenic vistas, and abundant landscaping, our hill stands out above the rest.

My man Leo and I noted these qualities back in 1957, when we first drove up the hill on our way to visit a lot we had purchased on nearby Cumberland Street—just south of 19th Street between Noe and Sanchez—where we planned to build.

On one of these trips, we noticed a For Sale sign on the brown shingled house that we now live in, and any plans we had for the Cumberland lot were scrapped forever!

Our house, in comparison to many of our neighbors' homes, is plain and unadorned. But we share the same breathtaking view of the city, and we are surrounded by many distinctive houses, each with their own personality.

Some of the structures that we found appealing when we first moved here are even more attractive now, as a result of the tender loving care they have received from their owners. One of my favorites is the fine home where Don Stroh and Nick Jarrett live.



The Stroh house on 21st Street between Church and Sanchez was built by a ship's carpenter in 1860. Photo by Leo Holub

When I first saw their house, which was built around 1860, it was sturdy but austere, with pink ice plant growing where the garage is now. It was built by a ship's carpenter, so every detail of the cabinetry inside the house is meticulously shipshape.

Thirty years ago it was purchased by a family with three delightful children and an imaginative mother who quickly added a touch of individuality to the



house, in the form of a cast concrete horse head that hung jutting out above the front door.

Each day as Ted and Rhea, our commercial artist neighbors, walked up and down the street on the way to their downtown studio, they noted the head and wondered if its rear quarters were suspended over the back door!

Not so, but a miniature barn was constructed in the side yard as a playhouse for the children. That's where all the small fry in the area congregated (including our young son) until, alas, the family moved away just a few years later.

Don and Nick have lived there ever since. Their double lot was eventually subdivided, and a modern house now stands where the playhouse once was. They have endowed their abode with elegant flower urns, and they've also added a real necessity—a garage!

Across the street from Don and Nick's, a fascinating and unusual house with a Mediterranean flavor sits at the rear of the lot, behind a charming garden. I was told that the man who built it was a dentist—a widower with a growing daughter to raise. Because he worked away from home, he cooked dinner in the back of his office in the Mission District, then carried it home in a pot at the end of the day.

The garage and stairway leading up to the garden level show the remarkable workmanship he was capable of. Undoubtedly it was his expertise in mixing materials for fillings and making metal bridgework that inspired the large-scale, cast-cement garage and the ornate metal railings that grace the facade. The family now living there has made improvements, yet retained the original charming style.

Most of the information about the neighborhood was offered to me by our friendly next-door neighbor Helen Hughes Helfrich, who was born and lived out her life in the Hughes family home. This Victorian house stands tall above an enormous retaining wall made of dark, glazed, bubbly brick. Helen used to say that the old armory down in the Mission was built with bricks left over from her house. They do look alike.

Wendy, who now lives in Helen's house, has in her own way done wonderful things throughout the home and garden. The facade has never looked better, wearing a fresh coat of white paint with gold accents highlighting the gingerbread motif.

Another of our neighbors, Dr. Jerome Goldstein, lives in a large Victorian that he has remodeled and brought up to code. In addition, he and his partner, Tom Taylor, are responsible for the spectacular annual decoration of the giant "Christmas tree" that stands in their yard. Every December, throngs of people come to view it and have their picture taken beneath it.

Next door to Jerome and Tom sits a low, modern structure with a beautiful garden leading to a front entry covered with lush red bougainvillea. The man who once owned it was a musician turned gardener for the city. Consequently, the landscaping is so professional that over the years garden clubs have visited it, and uninvited admirers often crane their necks to see over the gate.

A big, beautifully kept Spanish-style casa has always been the showcase on our block, with its lovely tile roof, and wrought-iron balconies and fencing. Once owned by the late Janet and Guido Pera, it is now the home of their son, Angus, and his bride Mariann.

Next door to the Peras' is the house where the Kley couple used to live. When they first moved in, they were often disturbed at night by noisy automobiles arriving and departing in front of the old three-story dwelling across the street from them. They wondered why so many taxis and big black Cadillacs frequented such a shabby building. One day they found out, when they read in the morning paper that police had conducted a successful raid and apprehension of persons operating a "house of ill fame" on their street!

The building has since been remodeled inside and out, and is now the picture of respectability.

The house that the Kleys lived in, and the one next to it, were well built but rather ordinary looking from the street. Subsequent owners, however, added one story to each building, which provided much more interesting facades, not unlike those of the four homes that will be built on the large lot at the top of the hill, at the southwest corner of 21st and Sanchez.

Last month, the Planning Commission gave its final approval for this new development, which will replace an old farmhouse. The contractor will soon

proceed with construction, despite opposition from a minority contingent, while a grateful, silent majority heaves a sigh of relief!

As a member of that majority, it is my opinion that although the opposition was well-meaning, they did not have a leg to stand on—a figure of speech that almost became a reality when one determined woman climbed a tree that was being cut down and kicked at the buzz saw! (See Voice archives at www.noevalleyvoice.com.)

I was one of a group of 16 people, composed mainly of architects, landscape architects, and residents, who in 1980 created the Special Use District designation for Dolores Heights, which sets out specific requirements designed to halt the threat of unbridled development, yet permit appropriate growth.

The four new houses will conform to these requirements, and I believe they will be compatible and worthy companions for the two edifices across the street.

At the northeast corner of 21st and Sanchez stands the grand mansion built in 1930 by Mayor James "Sunny Jim" Rolph. Rolph entertained guests in the top-floor dining hall, then treated them to the sparkling, panoramic view of our beautiful city from the adjoining deck.

When Rolph became governor, he gave the house to his son, James Rolph III, who lived there with his wife until the attempted kidnapping of their infant forced them to move to a safer, less isolated area.

For decades the Salaman family has owned the property, and at this time [1996] their son Frank lives there.

Across the street on the southeast corner, a large lot concealed by massive cement walls harbors a charming manor with a veranda (formerly a small farmhouse) that overlooks a flowering garden of exotic plants and large evergreen trees. It is hard to believe this exists in the middle of the city!

The most recent and delightful change on our block has been the resurfacing of the street with smooth pavement the color of soft gray suede.

Next we can look forward to the completion of the underground wiring project. For a long time my man Leo has nursed a grudge against the overhead wires, which have come between him and the perfect photograph!

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As you can see, our street and our hill continue to look better with each passing year. You really must come up and see us some time. ■



The former "Sunny Jim" Rolph house at the corner of Sanchez and 21st streets is a Tudor gem long admired by its neighbors. Photo by Sally Smith

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After the Singing. The St. Philip School combined Children's and Junior Choir pose outside Archbishop Riordan High School after their performance on February 28th. Carlton White directs the choir, and the assistant director is school parent Johanna Hirota (pictured). Photo by Paula Whitehead

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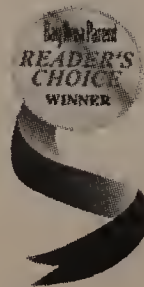
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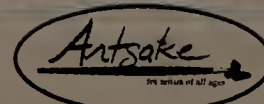
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Ready for a Ride. Youngster Cash Michael Yenne Bolos, who has lived in Noe Valley all his life, appreciates the bumper height of one of his local Noe Valley fire trucks.
Photo by Bill Yenne



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SCHOOL REPORT

An old computer cluttering your closet? What about a set of salad bowls? Your local public school would love to take them off your hands. Read on.

ALVARADO

Student Art Takes Off at SFO

Fly through the San Francisco Airport this summer and you might just see a familiar face: that of your kid.

Alvarado student art goes on display June and July in Terminal One's Concourse C baggage claim area. PTA art committee co-chair Anna Burke asked about the space last month, and Tim Taylor, curator of exhibitions for the airport's museums, was only too happy to oblige.

The airport reserves two exhibition sites for Bay Area student art, says Taylor. The exhibits started in 1980 and have included the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the San Francisco Symphony, and other schools like Alvarado.

"We give non-profit arts organizations the opportunity to showcase the art students create and to talk about the non-profit," he says. One frame will describe how Alvarado earns its reputation as an arts-rich school, and the other 11 will feature student art, like some of the self-portraits that are made by students in each grade level.

Burke and artist-in-residence Dan Stingle will choose which pieces are hung, Burke says. Since only two-dimensional art is allowed, the pair say they are thinking of photographing some of the students' clay projects, like the Victorian houses and clay people.

"We'll show the broad range of art we have," Burke says.

Auction Brings \$1,100 Per Masterpiece

Thanks to our community of parents and merchants, the Alvarado Not-So-Silent Auction earned just over \$60,000 in March. Class-created projects smashed a record set three years ago, bringing in \$30,600—an average of about \$1,100 per item.

With budget cuts threatening to remove about \$200,000 from Alvarado's budget, the money will be needed now more than ever. The school is facing the loss of its computer teacher and a reading specialist, among others. The PTA will try, as it has in the past, to fill in the gaps.

Parents put the heat on merchants in February to donate to the auction, but we also eagerly seek donations from members of the community. Your tax-deductible contribution to the Alvarado PTA helps children from across the socioeconomic spectrum enjoy learning in a creative environment. Their thanks are

SCHOOL CONTACTS

Alvarado Elementary School
Robert Broecker, Principal
625 Douglass Street at Alvarado
415-695-5695
www.alvaradoschool.net

Fairmount Elementary School
Karling Aguilera-Fort, Principal
65 Chenery Street at Randall
415-695-5669
www.fairmountschoolpta.org

James Lick Middle School
Carmelo Sgarlato, Principal
1220 Noe Street at 25th Street
415-695-5675
www.jameslickpts.org

in the art that makes the school a beautiful addition to the neighborhood.

—Heather World

FAIRMOUNT

Pijamada Night a Big Success

The lights were out, tents and tipis were set up, and sleeping bags were spread out on the floor as dozens of kids huddled in the dark to hear parents and teachers read to them by flashlight. Fairmount School's Literacy Week ended with children dressing in pajamas and camping out in the cafeteria for storytelling after school on Friday evening, March 14. Pijamada Night was the culminating event of a week filled with activities that focused on reading, writing, listening, storytelling, and all forms of literary enchantment.

Other highlights included a free dress day where students came as their favorite character from a well-loved book, a book exchange that had children donating copies of favorite books (even Dr. Seuss!) in exchange for someone else's, and a parent bilingual computer workshop in which Fairmount parents learned how to use the Fairmount listserv, where people are bilingually connected in English and Spanish in school-based chat rooms.

Another parent workshop, led by the San Francisco Public Library's Rachel MacNeilly, showcased library resources, including bilingual materials and services at the Mission Branch. After-school homework help is one of the features at that branch.

Student-centered activities included *Diaños*, where kids made journals they could write and draw in. *Infusion y Yoga* was a workshop that had students making their own bags of herbal tea, with parent gardener Kate Simmons showing them the plants the herbs came from. As their homemade tea bags steeped, the students practiced calming stretches with fitness expert Coach Courtney.

Never fear, *The Cat in the Hat* will be back at Fairmount next year.

Demand Grows for Kinder Immersion

Sixty families received a bundle of good news from the postal carrier on Saturday, March 8. Opening up the letter from the school district, they shared their delight in landing one of the highly coveted kindergarten spaces in Fairmount's Spanish-immersion program. The lucky families were among hundreds who had applied for the openings. Our school community welcomes our new families as they begin an exciting six-year journey with us. This year marked the fourth continuous year of growth in enrollment applications for the school.

FiestaVal Just Around the Corner

Fairmount continues to gear up for its May 17 extravaganza, FiestaVal. Parents and students are eagerly awaiting the games, crafts, butterfly tent, and music and dance performances, including Ballet Folklórico and ballroom dancing.

Thanks in advance to all the neighborhood merchants who are contributing goods, services, and restaurant meals for the silent auction. We already have gift

certificates from Church Street Apothecary, Cocina Poblana, Heartfelt, Maggie Mudd, and many others.

Recycle Your TV for Fairmount

On Sunday, April 13, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., get rid of all that stuff in your garage with one simple delivery to Fairmount School, 65 Chenery Street. Help clean the environment and dispose of all your unwanted electronic waste safely and *free of charge*, working or not. A portion of the proceeds from this event will go to Fairmount Elementary School. These items will be accepted for disposal: TVs, monitors, computers, parts and accessories, network equipment, hubs, routers, switches, cables, boards, printers, copiers, fax machines, scanners, typewriters, cell phones, VCRs, DVD players, and stereo equipment.

These items will not be accepted: microwaves, household appliances, vacuum cleaners, toasters, fans, light bulbs, lamps, or furniture.

—Tom Ruiz

JAMES LICK

Ready, Set—College!

Every James Lick student will have an opportunity to go to college this spring: Our sixth-graders will visit San Francisco State University; seventh-graders will go to U.C. Berkeley; and our eighth-grade class will visit Stanford University. It's all part of GEAR UP, a program that encourages middle-schoolers to begin planning for their college years by cultivating a college-bound state of mind before they reach high school. Many of our students will be the first in their families to enter college, so we're delighted that funding for this program has been restored at the middle-school level.

Meanwhile, the weekend of April 11 to 13 promises to be full of enchantment for the diverse group of James Lick students who will travel to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland. In addition to watching two professional Shakespeare performances, the kids will be participating in a workshop using theater games to explore the themes, characters, and language of the plays. They also will enjoy a five-hour visit to Crater Lake National Park—complete with snowshoe hike—and a stop at the Redding Indian Council Center to learn about the Indians who currently live in the area and those who lived there in the past.

Not to be left out, sixth-graders in the school's Spanish-immersion program will enhance their studies by visiting the National Chavez Center, Cesar Chavez's longtime home and the historic headquarters of the farm workers movement, located at La Paz, 30 miles east of Bakerville, Calif.

Anthony Burns Wins Retrial at Lick

Our eighth-graders have been studying *Anthony Burns*, a novel based on the arrest and trial of a Virginia slave who escaped bondage and fled to safety in Boston. When a court ordered him returned to his "owner" under the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, protests and riots erupted among abolitionists and citizens of Boston.

Thanks to a grant from Donors Choose, some of Marna Blanchard's U.S. history students will retry the 1854 case on film, using new high-quality technical equipment.

Ways to Help the School—And Get Your Car Clean

Please mark the evening of Saturday, May 3, on your calendar, and join us at the Noe Valley Ministry for our annual James Lick Middle School Auction. In addition to live and silent auctions of many appealing items and services donated by local merchants and residents, we will also have appetizers and wine and beer at this adults-only event. PTA president Julia Harrison is coordinating the details. Tickets will go on sale near the end of April, or may be purchased at the door. The action starts around 6 p.m.; contact the school for more information.

You're driving a lot less, but your car still gets dirty. Watch us wash your car on Saturday, April 12. Proceeds benefit Beyond the Bell, our after-school program. (If you're really early, you can watch the Fashion Show and Afterschool Program Showcase on Friday, April 11.)

Our sixth-grade families are planning a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, April 19, to fund travel to an agricultural area to study farming—an increasingly hot topic in recent years.

Free Outdoor Rock Concert

Two weeks before the breakfast, follow your ears to the sound of Fender guitars, and enjoy a free outdoor rock concert on Saturday, April 5, at the school from 4 to 6 p.m. Let our student bands rock your world with covers from the Beach Boys, AC/DC, Buffalo Springfield, the Clash, the Rolling Stones, and more. Bring your deck chairs and blankets (earplugs optional), and enjoy the show while sampling some delicious snacks.

The concert is free, but we'll gladly accept donations to help sustain our rock music program in partnership with Blue Bear School of Music. Some of the bands you'll hear will grace the stage at the Great American Music Hall as opening acts for Elvin Bishop at Blue Bear's annual benefit concert on May 9.

'Too Good to Be Nutritious'

Teachers Marna Blanchard and Gladys Dalmau have started a new health and fitness group for girls. The 24 members of the "Too Good to Be Nutritious" group meet on Fridays during lunch. They walk around the neighborhood for 20 to 25 minutes, hitting the hills in preparation for Bay to Breakers on May 18. When they return to school, the girls prepare a nutritious lunch, which they cook, eat, and clean up themselves. They also have guest speakers on topics related to health and beauty, such as care of the skin. A grant from Donors Choose funded some of the cooking supplies, but the girls still need some additional items:

Tongs, serving spoons/foiks, serrated knives, forks, spoons
Large pasta/soup pot (16 qt.)
Salad spinner
Large bowls for salads

The after-school program is also looking for bouffant wigs and rock-and-roll dresses as costumes for James Lick's upcoming production of *Hairspray*.

We can always use healthy snacks and water during state testing days, approximately April 28 to May 16.

Contact Carol Perez, school secretary, if you have something you would like to donate. (Be sure to let her know which program the donation is for.)

To see what else James Lick—or another favorite school—needs, go to www.DonorsChoose.org.

—Sue Cattoche

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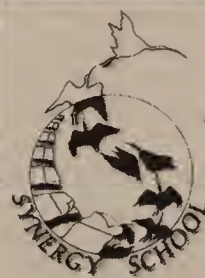
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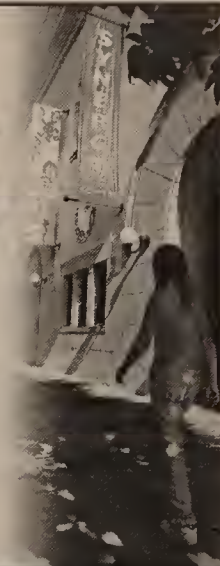
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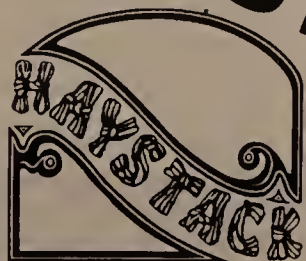
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MORE BOOKS TO READ

You can learn magic tricks or tips on how to direct your first movie by reading two of the books on this month's list, offered by *Voice* staffer Karol Barske with the aid of Carol Small, children's librarian at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey Street. To see if the books are available, drop by the branch, call Small or branch manager Alice McCloud at 355-5707, or visit the San Francisco Public Library online at www.sfpl.org.

Adult Fiction

■ In Cara Black's eighth Aimée Leduc mystery, *Murder in the Rue de Paradis*, an investigation of the death of a former boyfriend leads to assassination plots and secret contacts in a militant Turkish group.

■ Elements of the Wen Ho Lee accusations and the Unabomber case are woven into *A Person of Interest* by Susan Choi, a 2004 Pulitzer finalist for *American Woman*, a fictionalized account of the Patty Hearst kidnapping.

Adam Langer's *Ellington Boulevard: A Novel in A-flat* links the life, love, and real estate stories of a disparate group of New Yorkers.

■ In *The Book of Words* by Jenny Erpenbeck, translated from German by Susan Bernofsky, a young girl observes the effects of a repressive political regime in an unnamed tropical country.

Adult Nonfiction

■ Cultural historian Jane Rhodes examines the growth of a militant group in *Framing the Black Panthers: The Spectacular Rise of a Black Power Icon*.

■ Nick Taylor's *American Made: The Enduring Legacy of the WPA/When FDR Put the Nation to Work* chronicles one of

the New Deal's main programs, which employed artists and writers from 1935 to 1943.

■ Ten directors, including Richard Linklater, Terry Gilliam, and Sam Mendes, discuss their work in *My First Movie, Take Two*, edited by Stephen Lowenstein.

■ *Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy, and the West*, by Benazir Bhutto Akhund, discusses the history of interactions between the Middle East and the West, and traces the roots of international terrorism.

Children's Fiction

■ In Anna Dewdney's rhyming tale *Llama Llama Mad at Mama* (the sequel to *Llama Llama Red Pajama*), Mama helps Llama Llama get over a tantrum at Shop-O-Rama. *Ages 3 to 5*.

■ *Dog's ABC: A Silly Story About the Alphabet*, written and illustrated by Emma Dodd, gives the highlights of Dog's day in alphabetical order, beginning with an apple that falls on his head. *Ages 3 to 5*.

■ A group of dinosaurs causes chaos when they jump out of the pages of a book and into a classroom, in *Dancing Dinos Go to School* by Sally and Margeaux Lucas. *Ages 5 to 7*.

■ Julio helps his elderly friend, a master carver whose eyesight is failing, win a wood-carving contest in *Julio's Magic*, by Arthur Dorros, with illustrations by Ann Grifalconi. *Ages 6 to 8*.

■ Lumberjack Olee Swenson and his friends save a creature with the head of an ox, the feet of a bear, the back of a dinosaur, and the tail of an alligator, in *The Terrible Hodag and the Animal Catchers*, by Caroline Arnold, with black-and-white illustrations by John Sanford. *Ages 6 to 9*.

■ Nancy Farmer's *Clever Ali* is a tale of a boy who saves his father by replacing the Sultan's 600 cherries eaten by Ali's greedy messenger pigeon; based on a true story about 12th-century Egyptian ruler Al-Aziz. *Ages 8-9*.

Children's Nonfiction

■ Ian Keable's *The Big Book of Magic Fun* teaches card and coin tricks, rope tricks, illusions, and mind-reading. *Ages 6 and up*.

LIBRARY EVENTS

Kelly Corrigan Book-Signing

■ Best-selling author and columnist *Kelly Corrigan* will read from her memoir *The Middle Place* on Tuesday, April 8, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Corrigan, 36, says the title of her book refers to "that sliver of time when parenthood and childhood overlap." For her, that period included facing breast cancer and caring for a father with late-stage prostate cancer. Corrigan will also discuss her news columns, which cover topics ranging from the contagious nature of weight gain to extramarital affairs to going green. The event is in the Noe Valley Meeting Room at the newly renovated library, 451 Jersey Street.

Lapsits and Story Times

■ You and your baby or toddler are invited to hear stories, songs, and finger-plays at the weekly *lapsits*, held Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m. at the library. Children 3 to 5 can stay for *preschool story time*, a read-aloud program at 11 a.m. This month, the programs will take place on April 1, 8, 15, and 29.

Films for Preschoolers

■ Kids ages 3 to 5 are invited to come to the Noe Valley Library for a special *film* program on Tuesday, April 22. The films will be shown twice, once at 10:15 a.m. and again at 11 a.m. For questions about programs, call 355-5707.

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Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Branch Library
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(Closed for renovation)

Glen Park Branch Library
2825 Diamond St., 337-4740

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10 for 10 discount: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Voice* will be the May 2008 issue, distributed in Noe Valley the first week of May. **The deadline for Class Ads is April 15.** Note: The Class Ads are displayed for one month (or two in the case of the December or July issues) on our web site: www.noevalleyvoice.com.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Thank you for your support.

CLASS ADS

Retail Gift Shop. Mission District. 10 years in business. Asking \$39,500, inventory included. 400 square feet. Owner is taking early "health" retirement. 415-931-9846.

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Living Tai Chi of Noe Valley. Meditation, Qigong, Tai Chi forms. Friendly, non-competitive. Monday and Tuesday, 6 p.m., Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Mornings by appointment, 10:15 a.m. Please call for location. \$5 introduction (Mondays excluded). Chris Sequeira, practicing since 1973. 650-756-6857; 415-773-8185; www.livingtaichi.sf.com.

Vacation Retreat for Noe Valleyans: Calistoga/St. Helena. Three bedrooms, two baths; sleeps six (maximum). Decks with views of stream, woods, and meadow. Fireplace wood supplied; 30 acres, trails, all-year stream. Dogs okay. Three-night weekend, \$450. Seven nights, \$800; additional nights after seven, \$100. Discount for repeat guests. 415-647-3052. Photos, <http://spot02.googlepages.com>.

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Piano Lessons in Noe Valley: Supportive, patient teacher with many years of experience. Lessons tailored to individual goals. Ear training, theory, classical or popular repertoire. Barbara Bannett, 415-648-1007.

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Garage for Rent. Near 24th, Dolores and Church. Large enough for a full-sized auto, but little storage. Automatic door. \$250 month-to-month. 970-9355.

Dogilicious Walks and Petsitting. Noe Valley resident offers daily beach and park excursions for lucky dogs. Call or e-mail Nancy at 415-710-3195; dogiliciouswalks@hotmail.com. Website: www.dogiliciouswalks.com; blog: <http://blog.dogiliciouswalks.com>.

The "I Don't Know How to Cook" Class in Noe Valley. For those who know nothing about cooking or want to learn more—let the "Food Wiz" take the mystery out of food preparation. Learn how to prepare a tasty meal in a comfortable setting. The Wiz brings experience, patience, and humor to the kitchen. Foodwiz@sbcglobal.net. On the Web, use Google to find foodwizsf.com.

Guitar and Bass Lessons. Former Pickle Family Circus music director, composer of Academy Award-winning film. B.A. Berklee. 20 years of teaching experience. All ages, beginners welcome. Fun, reasonable. I do house-calls. Mark, 282-8244; www.kennedymusic-studio.com.

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Guitar and Voice Lessons with fun, experienced teacher. In your home or my studio. Rock, blues, country, finger-style, slide. All levels welcome, reasonable rates. Call Chris at 415-606-9248.

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Noe Valley Dog-Friendly Short-Term Rental. One bedroom, one bath, deck, private entrance. For more information go to www.noenook.com or call 415-695-7924.

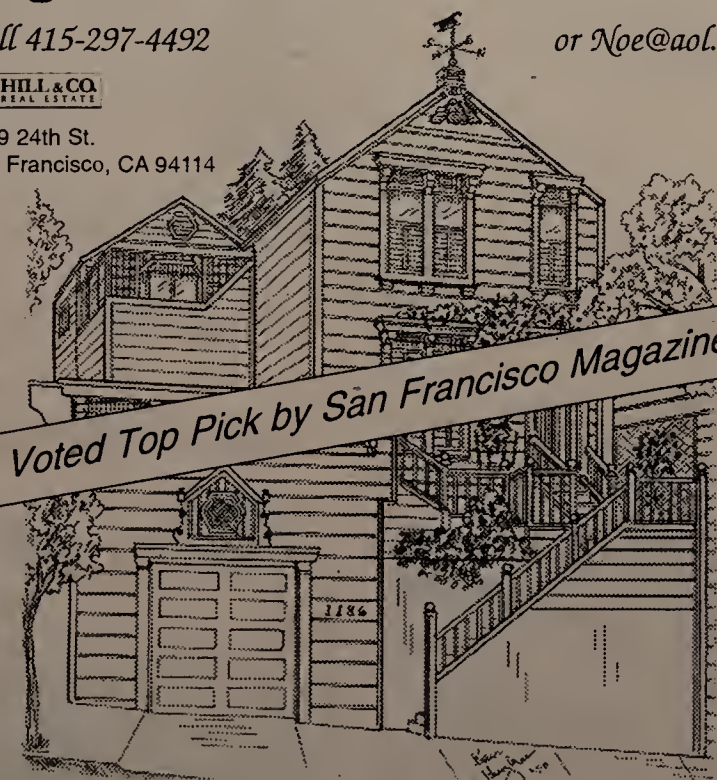
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CLAS ADS

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Prabha Milstein, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, MFC 44579, is now in private practice. Saturday office hours available. Office located at 1304C Castro Street on the corner of Castro and 24th streets in San Francisco. 415-200-8093. Specializing in children and families. For many years I was a teacher of school-age children. More recently, I have served as a child and family therapist specifically working with children exhibiting behavior problems in the classroom.

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Vacation Room Rental. Upper Noe Valley. Clean, comfortable, safe. Ideal for visiting family. 415-821-4890. Sue or emars5108@aol.com.

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Beautiful Garden Flat, Short-Term Rental. All amenities. One-bedroom flat suitable for one or two people. Very quiet, private, overlooking lovely garden. Tastefully furnished, completely self-contained, with own entry, phone, etc. Two DSL connections. Even a good spinet piano! Minimum stay of two weeks; prefer longer. Call 415-821-4872, visit www.sanfrancisco-victorian.com, or e-mail Wotan2u@aol.com. \$2,600 per month, all-inclusive, or \$850 weekly if less than a month.

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Words Wanted: The *Noe Valley Voice* welcomes your letters, stories, and essays. E-mail editor@noevalleyvoice.com or write *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, 94114. Please include name, address, phone. Include SASE if you need materials returned.

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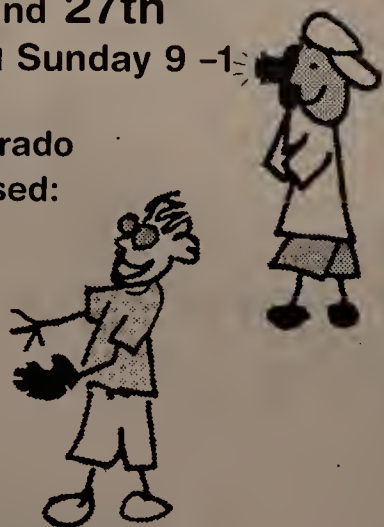
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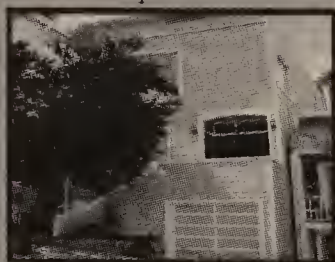
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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Noe: Where?

By Mazook

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION: San Franciscans are soooo provincial. We fashion our domains from the unique topography of the 47 square miles we have claimed as our own. Each of our 43 hills leads to at least as many valleys. We have a penchant for our "uppers" and our "lowers," designate our "outers" and "inners," and point to our "heights," "gulches," and "hollows." You're either north or south of Market or the Panhandle, in the streets or out in the avenues. Everyone always want to know your "cross street."

Noe Valleyans all know that our neighborhood is bounded by the Mission on the east, Dolores Heights and Eureka Valley to the north, Twin Peaks and Diamond Heights to the west, and Fairmount Heights, which is located at the south-westerly end of your basic Noe Valley, on the south.

But where are the boundaries? Not everyone agrees where the boundary lines should be drawn.

For the record, Noe Valley's official metes and bounds were set by San Francisco archivist Gladys Hansen, in her 1975 *San Francisco Almanac*, as follows: "Clipper and Douglass to Dolores and over Dolores to 25th Street. Down to Mission, out Mission to San Jose, south on San Jose to Miguel, west on Miguel to Laidley Street, over Laidley to 30th Street to Castro, over Castro to Valley, Valley to Diamond and back to Clipper Street."

By the way, the map in said *Almanac* was compiled by none other than Noe Valleyan Bill Yenne (author of *San Francisco's Noe Valley* in the "Images of America" series from Arcadia Press).

Yenne says that as far as he is concerned,

21st Street is the northern boundary and 30th the southern. In his eyes, Grand View is the western edge, and Dolores the eastern, "although I am willing to go down to Fair Oaks." Yenne can't quite figure out how Hansen came up with her borders, which he says "are quite clearly bogus."

So, where are we?



WHERE IT'S AT: The Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation (NVBI) has just completed its own exhaustive investigation of the boundaries of Noe Valley after the turmoil created by the S.F. Department of Elections' vote count for Noe Valley in the Feb. 5 Super Tuesday primary. At issue for the NVBI was exactly what boundaries were being used by the Elections Department to count the Noe Valley vote. For the NVBI, it was also a jurisdictional issue—just how far do their investigative powers reach?

It might surprise many living in Upper Market or on the eastern slopes of Twin Peaks, or in Dolores Heights, Liberty Heights, and the Fairmount, that they are all "Noe Valley" voters to the city. Many in Upper Noe Valley are casting their votes as Diamond Heights-ers rather than Noe Valleyans.

For the Department of Elections, Noe Valley starts at the northeast corner of Randall and San Jose Avenue, and heads northerly to and along Guerrero to 24th Street, then left for one block up 24th to Dolores. Go north on Dolores to 22nd, and turn right down to Fair Oaks, then up a block to 21st and turn left (west), going all the way up to Grand View (with a few one-block jags on the way up), and then south on Grand View until Alvarado, then turn west, go across Upper Market to Corbett and turn right (north) on Corbett. Climb up to Twin Peaks boulevard, turn left and head south on Twin Peaks until you reach Portola Drive, then turn left and head back north to Clipper. Are you dizzy yet? Head east down Clipper to Douglass and turn right up the hill to take a left at Cesar Chavez, then travel east again to Noe. Turn right and go out Noe to 30th Street, then turn right at Church and up a block, then left on Randall, and back to San Jose Avenue.



YOU ARE HERE: Of course, no one agrees

with the Department of Elections. When the NVBI asked Noe Valley activist Carol Yenne for our boundaries, she replied, "That's easy. It is 30th Street on the south to 21st Street on the north, and Grand View to the west and Dolores on the east."

Noe Valley Association president Debra Niemann agrees with Yenne, except she thinks that our eastern border goes down to Guerrero Street. Donna Davis, co-president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, agrees with Niemann. "Of our 104 member businesses, about 97 percent are within those boundaries," says Davis.

Paul Kantus, Noe Valley historian and past president of the now dormant East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, contends that the southern boundary is 30th Street and the northern is 21st Street, but he starts at Guerrero on the east and goes up to Corbett on the west. Kantus, who has lived at 21st and upper Douglass since 1926, points out that technically he lives in Eureka Valley. "My dad always said we lived in Eureka Valley at its border with Noe Valley, and East & West always had members that lived above Upper Market on Corbett."

Downtown Noe Valley realtor David Pennebaker (from B.J. Droubi) agrees with Kantus but thinks that the western edge stops at Upper Market. He is unclear, however, where Upper Noe Valley stops and Fairmount Heights begins, "although many refer to Fairmount as Glen Park, which it isn't, and many realtors think of northeast Noe Valley as Liberty Heights, which is not shown on any neighborhood map."

Zephyr's Noe Valley branch manager, Randall Kostick, points to the San Francisco Association of Realtors map as delineating our "official neighborhood boundaries": 30th on the South and 22nd Street to the north, with the eastern line going from 30th along San Jose and then Guerrero to 24th, then one block up to San Jose to 22nd, and then west as a straight line along Grand View, then Diamond Heights Boulevard, and across Billy Goat Hill to 30th Street.

"My personal view," says Kostick, "is that valleys are created from the peaks between one hill and the next, so Noe Valley is bounded on the south by the top of Fairmount Heights (above Laidley), the west by Twin

Peaks, the north at 22nd Street, and the east down to probably the east side of Fair Oaks or the west side of Guerrero."

Mission Police Captain Tim Hettrich, a SFPD 38-year veteran who resides off of Monterey Boulevard, says that the Noe Valley he knows is bordered by 27th Street on the south, 22nd Street on the north, Homestead on the west, and Church on the east. "The police beat for the commercial strip goes from Douglass to Dolores between 23rd and 25th streets."

The NVBI contacted the *San Francisco Chronicle* to ascertain where they thought Noe Valley was, and the editors turned to longtime *Chron* reporter and Bernal Heights resident Carl Nolte to respond.

"We put together a map of the San Francisco neighborhoods in about 1990," says Nolte, "which has Noe Valley borders going east-west from Hoffman to Dolores and north-south from 22nd to 30th Streets." According to Nolte, we are but one of 122 neighborhoods on the *Chronicle* map.

In concluding its report, the NVBI has now adopted the Department of Elections' expanded view of Noe Valley and has also included Upper Noe Valley from Noe Street up to Billy Goat Hill to Beacon. The NVBI is seriously considering whether to return Noe Valley to the very inclusive 1840 boundaries of Don José de Jesus Noe's Rancho de San Miguel, which would include the areas from Eureka Valley on the north all the way past Glen Canyon on the south, and Twin Peaks on the west down to "Rancho Bernal" (Islais Creek) on the east.



THE BEAT GOES ON: Everyone is happy that Downtown Noe Valley has seen the return of SFPD Officer Lorraine Lombardo, after a four-year hiatus. You all will remember that she patrolled here from 1991 through 2004.

"Yes, I'm on the beat," Lombardo says, "mostly on my mountain bike, because it's easier to get around that way. I'll be getting to know—or renewing my relationships with—the merchants and residents on 24th Street and the residential areas around it."

She says she'll be paying special attention to the double-parkers on 24th Street, to make

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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

sure the traffic keeps flowing. "I've also had a lot of complaints about people making left turns out of Bell Market," she adds. "People should know better than to do that!"

Last month, she was investigating a rash of 24th Street store burglaries (see *Crime Beat*) and helping merchants figure out how to secure their doors.

But she was happy to be back in Noe Valley. "It's nice to see everyone at the Saturday Farmers' Market, smiling and happy...it's a happy neighborhood.

"Coming back this time, I feel like I'm home," she adds. "It makes me realize how effective all those years of community policing were, because people remember me.... I've watched families grow up. I've even had one older teenager who is now working on 24th Street whom I knew as a little girl come up to me and say, 'Remember me? I used to play with your handcuffs!'"



SHINY & NEW: The newly retrofitted Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library reopened to great fanfare on March 8. Huge crowds, including lion dancers, filled the street before lining up to enter the building. Kids pounced on the books and drawing materials, while the adults started grabbing bestsellers and DVDs or sat down to work at the new computer terminals.

On hand to dedicate the branch were Mayor Gavin Newsom, Assemblyman Mark Leno, State Senator Carole Migden, and Supervisor Bevan Dufty with daughter Sidney in tow.

Special thanks went out to Noe Valleyans Kim Drew, David Brodwin, and Bill Yenne, who were very involved in raising funds and in working with the contractor and the city to get the doors to reopen.



SHORT SHRIFTS: Debra Niemann reports that the Noe Valley Association is planning on putting some planter boxes on the easterly wall of the newly renovated children's playground



Mayor Gavin Newsom (in Giants baseball cap) made the final snip on a very long communal ribbon at the March 8 reopening of the Noe Valley Library on Jersey Street. Then, lion dancers were followed into the building by hundreds of library lovers, who eagerly ran to the books, DVDs, and shiny new furniture, courtesy of the many donors to the Noe Valley Library Campaign. The mayor noted that the Andrew Carnegie building had originally cost \$45,499 to construct. The price tag on the new renovation was \$5.7 million.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

at Noe Courts to help prevent kids from climbing up on the wall and falling over the edge into the flowers below.

The spot recently vacated by Les Petit Ni-nous, at 1195 Church near 24th, has been taken over by a new shop called Mabuhay (a Filipino greeting meaning "long life"). Owner Camille Nelson Seiberling says the store, which opened in mid-March, specializes in environmentally-friendly clothing and toys for babies and toddlers. Many of her wares are by local designers, she says.

Last month, Wells Fargo opened its new, much larger branch in the space where Rite Aid used to be, at 4045 24th Street. The bank, which now will have eight live tellers, will take up about two-thirds of the space. The other third will be occupied by the California

State Automobile Association. CSAA, which sells memberships and travel packages and insurance, will have a grand opening party on April 7.

Bank of America has also completed a refurbishing of its Noe Valley branch. The only complaint we've heard is that the picture of bank founder A.P. Giannini was removed from the wall. Insiders tell us the portrait was saved and will be put back up soon.



KUDOS to the Reverend Dr. Karen Oliveto, who was pastor of Bethany United Methodist Church on Sanchez and Clipper for 12 years before she left in 2004 to teach at the Pacific School of Religion. She has been hired as an assistant pastor at the internationally

renowned Glide Memorial United Methodist Church.

You might remember that Oliveto performed what she called "the first legal gay marriage inside a United Methodist church." The wedding generated worldwide attention and got her into a heap of trouble with the church hierarchy, which filed a formal protest against her. She ultimately prevailed and now stands at the forefront of Methodist LGBT rights. Oliveto will share duties with a new co-pastor and Glide founder Cecil Williams.



THAT'S 30, FOLKS. Warning: If you turn this column upside-down, you will NOT be able to read it. Have a foolishly splendid April and see you back here on May Day. ■



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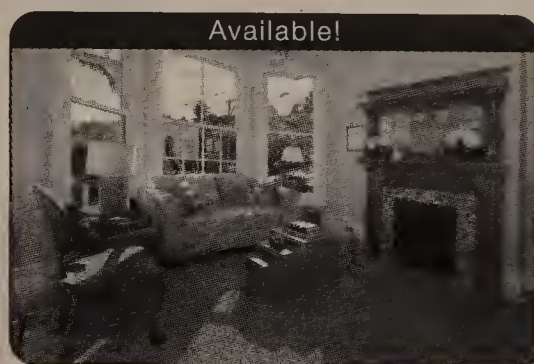
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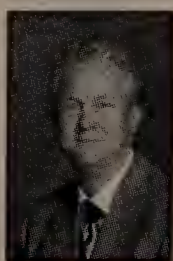
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Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Church Street Professionals

Contacts: Lynn Ingham, 643-5966,
or Paula Benton, 248-0235
E-mail: bentonp@sprynet.com
Meetings: Third Monday, every other
month. Location varies.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30
p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Board meetings bimonthly; mem-
bership semi-annually. Call for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contacts: Pat Lockhart, 282-9360;
Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or
Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Irregular, call to confirm.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Third Thursday of the month
(except December), Eureka Valley Recrea-
tion Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Joyce Kurtz, 401-6362
Mailing Address: 261 Fair Oaks St., San
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Meetings: Call for information. Note: The

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Fairmount Heights Neighborhood Association

Contact: Gregg Brooks
E-mail: sflyric@yahoo.com
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Meetings: E-mail for details.

Friends of Dolores Park Playground

Contact: Eli Merritt, 285-3774
E-mail: emerr@earthlink.net
Mailing Address: 3786 20th St., San
Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: E-mail for information.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground

Contact: Laura Norman
E-mail: lauranor@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley,
P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: E-mail for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)

Contact: Richard May
E-mail: rambooks@pacbell.net
Web site: www.friendsofnoevalley.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San
Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: First or second Thursday of the
month (call or e-mail to confirm), at
St. Philip's Parish Hall, 725 Diamond St.

Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center

Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845
Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center and Park

Contact: Alexandra Torre
E-mail: noe_park@atorre.com
Web site: www.noevalleyreccenter.com
Meetings: E-mail or check web site.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114,
San Francisco, CA 94119
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Screenwriting Discussion Group

Contact: Kendall Callas, 821-1310
E-mail: kendall@microcounsel.com
Meetings: Monthly; e-mail for details.
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Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"

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Noe Valley Association—24th Street Community Benefit District

Contact: Debra Niemann, nemo@rcn.com
Dispatch: To report spills, debris, or garbage
on 24th Street, call 559-8492.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Andy Fleischman, 641-5838
Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month;
Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.,
7:30 p.m.

Noe Valley Farmers' Market

Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon, on 24th between
Sanchez and Vicksburg Street
Contact: Paula Benton, 248-1332
Mailing Address: 4104 24th St., #401, San
Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Second Thursday of the month,
Noe Valley Ministry (co-sponsor), 1021
Sanchez St., 8 p.m.

Noe Valley Library Campaign

Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695,
kkdrew@yahoo.com; Marian Chatfield-
Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103
Mailing Address: Friends of the
San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St.,
San Francisco, CA 94102
Meetings: Call for information.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)

Contacts: Donna Davis, 647-2116, or Teresa
Gay, 336-6304
E-mail: info@noevalleymerchants.com;
register at www.noevalleymerchants.com.
Meetings: Last Wednesday of the month.
E-mail for location and time.

Noe Valley Parent Network

An e-mail resource network for parents
Contact: Mina Kenvin
E-mail: minaken@gmail.com

Noe Valley Preparedness Committee

Contact: Maxine Fasulis, 641-5536
E-mail: mfasulis@yahoo.com
Meetings: Call for details.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San
Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

Contact: Don Oshiro, 285-8188
E-mail: contact@sanjoseguerrero.com
Web site: www.sanjoseguerrero.com
Meetings: See web site.

Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association (SWMNA)

Boundaries: 24th Street to Cesar Chavez and
Fair Oaks to Mission
Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary
E-mail: lori@tail-wagging.com
Web site: www.tail-wagging.com
Meetings: E-mail for information.

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San
Francisco, CA 94131
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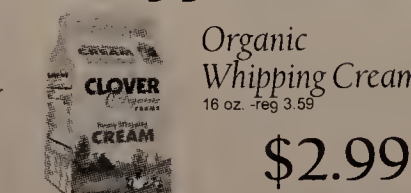


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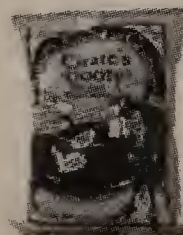
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REAL ESTATE SINCE 1919



ST. FRANCIS WOOD \$1,749,000

4BR/3.5BA Englis Tudor. Formal living room with fireplace, eat-in kitchen, great room/ding room, hardwood floors, wine cellar, 4-car parking.



BERNAL HEIGHTS \$1,250,000

2 buildings on this parcel, 1 behind the other. Front building consists of 3 units, cute Victorian style cottage in back has 2 units.



BUENA VISTA PARK \$1,195,000

Top floor 1BR endo in 6 unit Edwardian bldg. Remodeled kitchen & BA, hardwood floors, plantation shutters, recessed lighting, FDR, garden, pkg, laundry, location!



LONE MOUNTAIN \$1,099,000

Splendid sunny home on coveted "secret" cul-de-sac near USF. 3BR/2BA, remod eat-in kitchen, FDR, fireplace. Gorgeous arch. details. Detached on 3 sides. Inviting garden & patio.



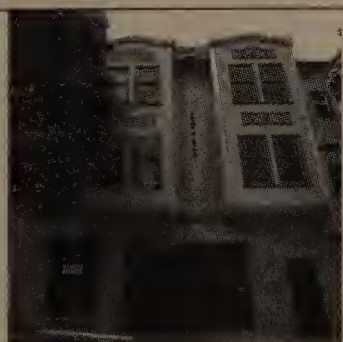
LONE MOUNTAIN \$899,500

This 1941 era condo features 2BR/2BA, hardwood floors, LR w/gas fireplace, dual pane windows, 1-car parking, storage, common use washer/dryer.



WEST PORTAL \$849,000

Flooded with light the formal dining & living rooms will be perfect for entertaining. Bring your work belt & the main floor & the undeveloped downstairs areas could be spectacular.



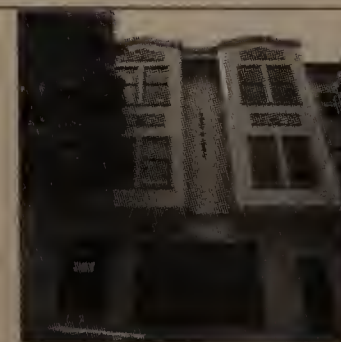
BERNAL HEIGHTS \$510,000

Highly renovated top floor 1 bedroom flat. In a vacant 2-unit building! Super cool finishes! View deck! Pkg.



NORTH PANHANDLE \$499,000

Charming 1BR/1BA Vict. Condo. Close to USF, GG Park, trans & shopping. Eat-in kit opens to a private deck & courtyard. LR w/hi clngs, h/w flrs, BR w/off. nook + in-unit Indry. Leased pkg.



BERNAL HEIGHTS \$489,000

1 Bedroom, 1 bathroom in vacant 2-unit building. Hardwood floors, 1-car side-by-side parking, fast track to condo conversion.



Valley Views. At the top of 24th Street where it meets Grand View, you can see Potrero Hill and on a clear day, the hills of Oakland beyond.

Photo by Jack Tipple



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THE SUBPRIME VALLEY VOICE

Smoker Escapes Designated Area, Attacks Pedestrian

By Sue Keeper

St. Patrick's Day revelers in downtown Noe's famed Blister Bar stood by in horror as a bar customer apparently leapt from the smoking grotto to attack an innocent passerby.

Bar patron Jerry Raff, a witness to the attack, said he first noticed an obviously sober man loitering on the sidewalk outside. According to Raff, the pedestrian was taunting the smokers, who were pacing back and forth in the designated smoking area at the front of the bar.

Raff said the man "made some loud noises like he was inhaling a cigarette, then he coughed with his mouth open. I didn't think anything about it until he started throwing acorns at the smokers."

Suddenly, a female smoker in an orange-and-black T-shirt lunged at the heckler. As the man stumbled to the ground, she pounced. "It happened so fast, there was nothing we could do," said Raff. "That smoker just sprang out of the smoking cage. You know, I always thought that ledge was too low."

In fact, according to the Noe Valley Bureau of Weights and Measures, the ledge of the grotto was 4 inches shy of the height requirement specified in the National Smoker Containment Ordinance.

The bar's manager, Petey Barnum, stated the incident might never have happened if the laws had been changed to allow smokers back in bars. "It's not natural to be forced to drink and smoke while on display in such a small enclosed area. Hey man, it's a tense environment, and sooner

CONTINUED IN SUPERIOR COURT

Campaign Watch

Obama's Message Of "Change" Appeals to Noe Superdelegate

By Nader Gonzalez Huckabee

Noe Valley panhandler Gary Hartpen-ny has gotten used to people ignoring him as he asks for spare change in front of the abandoned Sullied Coffee Warehouse on 24th Street. But he's been getting a lot more attention lately, and not from just anyone—from the leading candidates for President of the United States.

That's because Hartpen-ny is a superdelegate in the Democratic Party.

As our history-minded readers may recall, in the past the Democratic Party held contests in individual states around the U.S., awarding delegates based on the proportion of votes received. Nowadays, the party has left behind this antiquated system for a far more efficient mechanism in which 795 "superdelegates" select the party's nominee.

The set of superdelegates is largely



Photo by Pippi Longstocking

Fictional Characters Return for Library's Opening Day

By Mr. Toad

A litany of literary characters paraded down Jersey Street and reported for duty at the Noe Valley Branch of the San Francisco Public Library, just in time for the library's April 1 reopening. After waiting out a two-year renovation, they will now resume their roles in the library's collection. It was a day of great excitement for Noe residents, who lined the red carpet waiting for a glimpse of their favorite figments. Eight-year-old Rita Lynn jumped up and down, pigtails flapping, trying to see over the crowd. "I think I saw Ramona Quimby!" she shrieked gleefully.

The characters themselves exhibited a range of emotions upon the occasion.

Brothers Frank and Joe Hardy showed up at the exact opening time of 9:30 a.m., freshly scrubbed and eager to get back to work, while Holden Caulfield lingered around the corner on Castro Street, finishing off a pack of Kools and muttering sarcastically.

Many in attendance agreed that the most glamorous entrance was made by Blanche DuBois, who arrived on the arm of sharply dressed Mayor Gavin Winsome. The couple have been seen about town together on an almost constant basis after they met at a weekly support group.

The day was not without mishaps. At around noon, Curious George scaled the south wall of the library and hopped onto the roof, while a man with a big yellow hat watched in horror. And later on, Waldo wandered off the red carpet and into the crowd; as of press time, event organizers were still unable to locate him.

Herb's and Happy Donuts To Compete on Iron Chef

By Grease Kelly

The producers of the Japanese-based TV reality show *Iron Chef* have selected two Noe Valley chefs—Herb Grains from Herb's Fine Foods and Sharon Scone from Happy Donuts—to compete in their season finale on April 1.

Flush from his victory in the March semifinals, Chef Grains said, "I knew I'd be picked when Judge Ito, head chef at Offal Dining, called my lutefisk jello a little glob of heaven."

Judge Judy Sheindlin, head chef at Root 66, famous for its root-vegetable menu, declared

Happy Donuts a winner after she dined on Chef Scone's mouth-watering five-course meal made solely from pickles.

Both chefs are sharpening their knives for the final competition, which takes place at the Cow Palace. Chef Grains, known for whipping his sous chefs into shape, is confident he will win, just so long as the theme ingredient is white flour, he said.

The kitchen staff at Happy Donuts is equally assured. Says Scone, "We will make mincemeat out of Herb if the theme is powdered sugar."

The Voice learned at press time there might be a fly in the soup. Noe Valley's two most famous chefs are steaming over new *Iron Chef* rules that bar them from ordering takeout. ■

Google Instructs Muni to Reroute J-Church Line

By Barney Google

By now, you've probably seen them—the group of well-dressed young professionals who stand on the sidewalk at Church and 24th each weekday morning waiting for their mass transit vehicles to whisk them to work. But starting April 1, these Muni riders will have to wait a block away, because their streetcars are interfering with Google's commuter bus service to and from Mountain View.

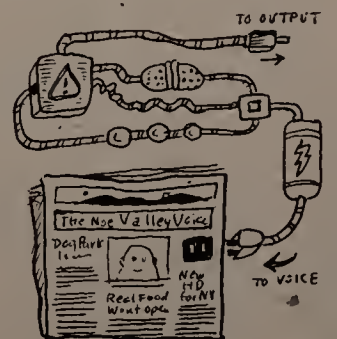
Muni's "J-Church" streetcar line has been picking up passengers at this corner for some time, but in recent months Google has become increasingly concerned about delays in its luxury coach service caused by the streetcars' daily loading and unloading of passengers.

"We made every reasonable effort to accommodate the city's transit service, but we were really starting to get deluged with text messages from our employees complaining about the situation," says Google PR representative M. Phelan Lucky. "We tried to mollify [our employees] with extra pheasant canapes during these delays, but they were still dissatisfied."

Starting at midnight on April 1, the metal rails embedded in Church Street between 23rd and 25th streets will be ripped up, stretched to be a bit longer, and then rerouted along Sanchez Street. Google expects the work to be completed in approximately 0.014 seconds. In addition to the rerouting, the streetcar line will be renamed the "G-Church" line.

Muni boss Michael Moonshine was initially surprised by Google's decision, but a quick Web search revealed that the Silicon Valley behemoth has final say over transit routes in Noe Valley, now that more than 50 percent of Noe residents are employed by the company.

"Besides," says Moonshine, "I think our riders will enjoy the new targeted advertising in front of each seat, based on the content of their recent e-mails." ■



VOICE Goes HD

By Ann Tennah

On April 1, 2009, the *Noe Valley Voice*, along with most other monthly newspapers, will convert to HD. This will be a great improvement: Photos and type will be sharper. And the actual thoughts expressed in the news and features will be crisper and more cogent. However, in order to view this new improved paper, readers are going to have to acquire special HD-NVV glasses (Gill Sans compatible), or else obtain a converter box (see diagram), which plugs into any AC/HD wall socket. Without one of these gadgets, the *Noe Valley Voice* will look like one big blur. The *Voice* will be offering a special price of \$150 (\$140 seniors) for the glasses, to the first 100 readers who take out a half-page ad with a one-year contract; call Steve for details. The converter box (see diagram), easy enough to be assembled by a fifth-grader, is sold in individual shrink-wrapped pieces at Radio Shak on 24th Street. ■

The Ship Hits the Span...Again

By Rosco Busan

The same tanker that crashed into the Bay Bridge last Nov. 7, fouling the waters with 58,000 gallons of oil, has done it again, but luckily this time the spill was vinegar and the collision occurred on the left side of the pylon.

The container ship Blunderbuss, again piloted by Capt. Kent C. Dafog, struck the bridge the morning of Feb. 30, just before the cock crowed. Fortunately, by sunrise, the spill was being sopped up by a crew of foodies from Alice Waters Plants, Inc., who happened to be trolling the Bay for edamame. They dipped their bushels of lettuce varietals in the serendipitous dressing, and filled cruets to serve at Berkeley's Chez Pan Eats. The Noe Valley Farmers' Market was also called in to set up crouton and crudité stands along the Baker Beach salt bar.

Volunteers with salad spinners are still needed to remove excess marinade from the fish and aquatic birds, which will be available for grilling at the Sunshine Sustainable Foods kiosk at Safeway Heights Shopping Center.

What's Really Behind the Real Food Door

By Rap Scallion

The *Voice* has learned that the Real Food Company on 24th Street, which abruptly closed in 2003 following employees' attempts to unionize, has been secretly operating for three years as a private club for food fetishists. The secret remained safe until rival Bell Market leaked the story last month, after being tipped off by former club members who had quit because they couldn't digest fennel pollen. Since then, the Real Food building has remained shrouded in butcher paper depicting artisanal carrots and bananas.

According to the *Onion*, those who belong to this exclusive group of gourmards are arriving at midnight in sleek V8-engine limousines and entering through a coded security gate on the Jersey Street side of the building. "I saw a truck come by and unload five barrels of bean curd one night," said Olive Mee, a neighbor on Jersey Street. "I'm afraid they're going to attract raccoons and people who eat that stuff."

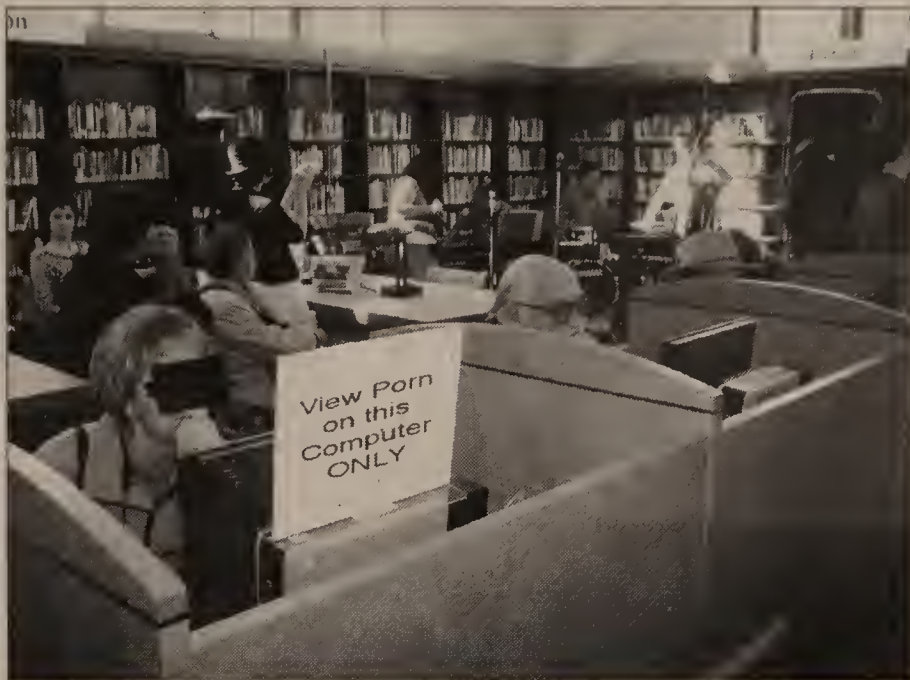
Easy Letters to Editor

The *Voice* has established a new letters-to-the-editor recognition system. All you have to do is answer "yes" or "no." Did you write a letter complaining about the strollers on 24th Street? We thought we heard you say "Yes." Okay, so dogs are a problem.... That was a "no," right? How many senior tickets would you like? Let's try again. Please spell your name, starting with the first.... We heard you say "Human Being." If this is correct, say..... To speak to a customer service representative...



Tatiana's Nails

See our ad online.



A Carrel of Fun: Although many of the services at the newly renovated Noe Valley Library are aimed at children, some are for adults. Besides a new petting zoo, the branch offers three PlayStations and a jazz band. Clearly, there is more to check out than books. *Photo by E. Spitzer*

Panhandler Wooed By Hillary, Obama

CONTINUED D PENNSYLVANIA

composed of elected officials, high-ranking party operatives, and as-yet-unindicted campaign donors. But there are a few like Hartpenny who don't fit the standard profile, and they've been the focus of unprecedented attention during the 2008 election cycle.

Both remaining Democratic candidates have been in touch with Hartpenny on an almost daily basis, and former President Bill Clinton has been camped out in the back of a pickup truck in the alley next to Hartpenny's cardboard box for three days.

Hartpenny enjoys the attention, but he also takes the responsibility seriously.

"This is a difficult decision," he said recently during a break between two nationally televised satellite interviews. "I admire Senator Clinton's past work on universal health-care coverage, and I think her economic plan is good. On the other hand, Senator Obama gave me a very nice pair of socks."

Noe Valley residents, many of whom have known Hartpenny since he first appeared on 24th Street in the early '90s, seemed surprised last month to learn about his crucial role in the election process.

"I'd heard him mention it maybe a dozen times before," said John Rockefeller Jr., who wrote several of his novels while sitting at Warbucks nursing a grande cappuccino. "But most of those times he was talking to the parking meter, so I wasn't sure how seriously to take it."



Tragic Talkdown: Sgt. Ray Venn (right) of the city's Avian Suicide Task Force takes a moment to assess the situation as he attempts to talk down a would-be jumper from a roof on Jersey Street. Moments after this photo was taken, Sgt. Venn successfully brought the unidentified bird to ground, where he was tragically eaten by a feral cat. *Photo by Pamela Clicker*

CALOMINE

April 1: Author Liz Truss gives a **READING** of *Eat, Pray, Shoots, and Leaves* at the Grammarians Society Ashram. 9 pm. Cuckoo's, 40 Maiden Road.

April 1: The Noe Valley Chamber Orchestra performs a **CONCERT** to benefit the SPCA and the SF Tenants Union, featuring Beethoven's *Furry Lease*. 4 pm. No College of California, 32900 Valencia.

April 1: The Noe Valley Music Serious welcomes Mumblin' Jack Elpmfnwgz, performing **TUNES** from his new CD, *Tell Me What'd I Say*. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Pirate Center, Sanchez & Hoffman.

April 1: Bring new and gently eaten food to a neighborhood **FOOD DRIVE** for distribution to families in need. 6:15 am. In front of Holly Bagel, 24th Street.

April 1: A Progressive Reading to save the **COLOR WHEEL** includes appearances by Amy Tan, Cara Black, Scarlett Harlot, Gray Davis, Vida Blue, Hue Grant, and Old Yeller. 4 pm. Blue Church, 16 Church Street.

April 1: "Gosh Dam America" is the topic of the Rev. Archie Bunker's 9 am sermon at the Definitely Unified Church of White. 1022 Alvarado. KKK-5555.

April 1: Meet Dr. Robert Jarvik, inventor of the artificial heart, Similac, forged steel, counterfeit money, faux fur, Tofurky, pleather, and I Can't Believe It's Not Butter. 3 pm. Walgreen on 24th. 555-FAKE.

April 1, 5, 9: Learn how to pick a wrench, stop a leaky faucet, and install a toilet, at a series of **PLUMBERS NIGHTS** sponsored by the Home Owners of Noe Valley at three local bookshops. 7 pm. 555-PLUG.

April 1: The American Dental Association hosts a **PANEL DISCUSSION** on "Gum Control." 8 pm. ForTeethin', Diamond & Church.

April 1: "Public Opinion Polls: Do We Need Them?" is the topic at the local **DEMOS & Independents** meeting. 7:30 pm. Our Lady of Assumptions, Noe & Diamond. surveysays@aol.com.

April 1: Deadline to register for Katie's Drop-In **WEIGHT-LOSS Clinic**, triggering a team of professional nannies to make surprise visits to your home to remove your food. Preregister: 555-GULP.

April 1: Osama Hussein Hitler reads and signs his new **BOOK**, *What's in a Name?* at Bird & Covers Bookstore. 7 pm. 2999 Chenery. 555-MYTHS.

April 1: John Kale & Pea Diddy (8:30 am) and Spuds MacKenzie (10:30 am) play the Noe Valley Farmers' Market. 7 am. 24th & Vicksburg.

CORRECTION

The *Noe Valley Voice* would like to apologize for an error in our February 30 issue. The newspaper printed an excerpt from a recently published memoir, *White as a Ghost*, written by a young white Anglo-Saxon Protestant girl growing up in rough-and-tumble Noe Valley. The editors have since learned that the author was in fact a South-Asian man in his 80s who has spent his entire life living in a small village outside Bangalore. The editors apologize for being fooled by the author's insightful and colorful descriptions of singing in the church choir, waiting endlessly for the J-Church, and selling Girl Scout cookies in front of Bell Market on Clipper Street.

THE SUBPRIME VALLEY VOICE

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Warning: Reading this issue of the Fool's Valley Voice may cause serious side effects. Stop reading immediately if you are pregnant or nursing, or may become pregnant, or may become a nurse.

Winter Wonderland: This photo, captured by our stringer Randy Hearst, shows Noe Valley at the height of last month's freak snowstorm.